



Breaking Point

House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio meets with reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013, to answer questions about the impending automatic spending cuts that take effect March 1.
(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Cuts imminent, Senate rejects stopgap efforts

DAVID ESPO
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — Squabbling away the hours, the Senate swatted aside last-ditch plans to block \$85 billion in broad-based federal spending reductions Thursday as

President Barack Obama and Republicans blamed each other for the latest outbreak of gridlock and the administration readied plans to put the cuts into effect. So entrenched were the two parties that the Senate chaplain, Barry

Black, opened the day's session with a prayer that beseeched a higher power to intervene. "Rise up, O God, and save us from ourselves," he said of cuts due to take effect sometime on Friday. The immediate impact of the reductions on

the public was uncertain, and the administration pulled back on its earlier warnings of long lines developing quickly at airports and teacher layoffs affecting classrooms. On the Senate floor, a Republican proposal requir-

ing Obama to propose alternative cuts that would cause less disruption in essential government services fell to overwhelming Democratic opposition, 62-38.

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Benedict becomes 1st pope in 600 years to resign

FRANCES D'EMILIO

NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (AP) — Benedict XVI left the Catholic Church in unprecedented limbo Thursday as he became the first pope in 600 years to resign, cap-

cally closing out a papacy whose legacy will be most marked by the way it ended — a resignation instead of a death.

Benedict, who will spend his first two months of retirement inside the palace walls, leaves behind an

lic Church shifts to Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the camerlengo, or chamberlain, who along with the College of Cardinals will guide the church and make plans for the conclave to elect the 266th leader of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics.

inside the Vatican than at Castel Gandolfo. At the seat of the popes, Benedict's staff tearfully bade the pontiff good-bye in scenes of dignified solemnity. A more lively atmosphere reigned in the countryside, with well-wishers jamming the hilltop town's main square shouting "Viva il Papa!" (Long live the pope!) and wildly waving the yellow and white flags of the Holy See.

"I am simply a pilgrim beginning the last leg of his pilgrimage on this Earth," Benedict told the cheering crowd in his final public words as pope.

It was a remarkable book-end to a papacy that began on April 19, 2005 with a similarly meek speech delivered from the loggia overlooking St. Peter's Square, where the newly elected Benedict said he was but a "simple humble worker in the vineyard of the Lord."

Over eight years, Benedict tried to set the church on a more traditional course, convinced that all the ills afflicting it — sexual abuse, dwindling numbers of priests and empty pews — were a result of a misreading of the reforms of the Second Vatican Council.

His successor is likely to follow in his footsteps given that the vast majority of the 115 cardinals who will elect the next pope were appointed by Benedict himself and share his conservative bent.

For the most part, his cardinals have said they understood Benedict's decision. But Sydney Cardinal George Pell caused a stir on Thursday by saying it was "slightly destabilizing" — a rare critique of a pope by one of his cardinals.

Benedict's journey into retirement began with a final audience with his cardinals Thursday morning, where he sought to defuse concerns about his future role and the possible conflicts arising from the peculiar situation of having both a reigning pope and a retired one living side-by-side inside the Vatican.

"Among you is also the fu-

ture pope, whom I today promise my unconditional reverence and obedience," Benedict told the cardinals.

Benedict's decision to live at the Vatican in retirement, be called "emeritus pope" and "Your Holiness" rather than revert back to "Joseph Ratzinger" and wear the white cassock associated with the papacy has deepened concerns about the shadow he might cast over the next papacy. Benedict has tried to address those worries over the past two weeks, saying that once retired he would be "hidden from the world" and living a life of prayer. On Thursday he took a step further with his own public pledge to place himself entirely under the authority of the new pope.

Benedict also gave a final set of instructions to the "princes" of the church who will elect his successor, urging them to be united as they huddle to choose the next pope.

"May the College of Cardinals work like an orchestra, where diversity — an expression of the universal church — always works toward a higher and harmonious agreement," he said. It was seen as a clear reference to the deep internal divisions that have come to the fore in recent months following the leaks of sensitive Vatican documents that exposed power struggles and allegations of corruption inside the Vatican. The audience inside the Apostolic Palace was as unique as Benedict's decision to quit, with the pope, wearing his crimson velvet cape and using a cane, bidding farewell to his closest advisers and the cardinals themselves bowing to kiss his fisherman's ring for the last time.

A few hours later, Benedict's closest aide, Monsignor Georg Gaenswein, wept by his side as they took their final walk down the marbled halls of the Apostolic Palace to their motorcade that took them to the helipad at the top of a hill in the Vatican gardens. □



Pope Benedict XVI waves from the balcony window of the Pontifical summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, some 35 kilometers south of Rome, to a cheering crowd gathered to see him the day he ends his pontificate, Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013.

(AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino)

ping a tearful day of farewells that included an extraordinary pledge of obedience to his successor.

As bells tolled, two Swiss Guards standing at attention at the papal palace in Castel Gandolfo shut the thick wooden doors shortly after 8 p.m., symboli-

eight-year term shaped by struggles to move the church beyond clerical sex abuse scandals and to reawaken Christianity in an indifferent world — efforts his successor will now have to take up.

For the time being, the governance of the Catho-

One of Bertone's first acts was to lock the papal apartment inside the Vatican. In another task steeped in symbolism, he will ensure that Benedict's fisherman's ring and seal are destroyed.

On Benedict's last day, the mood was vastly different

Rodman tells Kim Jong Un he has 'friend for life'

JEAN H. LEE

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— Ex-NBA star Dennis Rodman hung out Thursday with North Korea's Kim Jong Un on the third day of his improbable journey with VICE to Pyongyang, watching the Harlem Globetrotters with the leader and later dining on sushi and drinking with him at his palace.

"You have a friend for life," Rodman told Kim before a crowd of thousands at a gymnasium where they sat side by side, chatting as they watched players from North Korea and the U.S. play, Alex Detrick, a spokesman for the New York-based VICE media company, told The Associated Press.

Rodman arrived in Pyongyang on Monday with three members of the professional Harlem Globetrotters basketball team, VICE correspondent Ryan Duffy and a production crew to shoot an episode on North Korea for a new weekly HBO series.

The unlikely encounter makes Rodman the most high-profile American to meet Kim since the young North Korean leader took power in December 2011, and takes place against a backdrop of tension between Washington and Pyongyang. North Korea conducted an underground nuclear test just two weeks ago, making clear the provocative act was a warning to the United States to drop what it considers a "hostile" policy toward the North.

Kim, a diehard basketball fan, told the former Chicago Bulls star he hoped the visit would break the ice between the United States and North Korea, VICE founder Shane Smith said. Dressed in a blue Mao suit, Kim laughed and slapped his hands on the table before him during the game as he sat nearly knee to knee with Rodman. Rodman, the man who once turned up in a wedding dress to promote his autobiography, wore a dark suit

and dark sunglasses, but still had on his nose rings and other piercings. A can of Coca-Cola sat on the table before him in photos shared with AP by VICE.

"The crowd was really en-

emblazoned with "United States of America. "Most fun I've had in a while."

Kim and Rodman chatted in English, but Kim primarily spoke in Korean through a translator, Smith said after

the crazy shots, and the Harlem Globetrotters were putting on quite a show."

The surprise visit by the flamboyant Hall of Famer known as "The Worm" makes him an unlikely am-

fought on opposite sides of the three-year Korean War, which ended in a truce in 1953. The foes never signed a peace treaty, and do not have diplomatic relations.

Thursday's game ended in a 110-110 draw, with two Americans playing on each team alongside North Koreans, Detrick said. The Xinhua News Agency first reported on the game, citing witnesses who attended.

After the game, Rodman addressed Kim in a speech before a crowd of tens of thousands of North Koreans, telling him, "You have a friend for life," Detrick said.

At a lavish dinner at Kim's palace, the leader plied the group with food and drinks as the group made round after round of toasts. "Dinner was an epic feast. Felt like about 10 courses in total," Duffy said in an email to AP. "I'd say the winners were the smoked turkey and sushi, though we had the Pyongyang cold noodles earlier in the trip and that's been the runaway favorite so far." Duffy said he invited Kim to visit the United States, a proposal met with hearty laughter from the North Korean leader. □



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, left, and former NBA star Dennis Rodman watch North Korean and U.S. players in an exhibition basketball game at an arena in Pyongyang, North Korea, Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013. Rodman arrived in Pyongyang on Monday with three members of the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team to shoot an episode on North Korea for a new weekly HBO series.

(AP Photo/VICE Media, Jason Mojica)

gaged, laughed at all of the Globetrotters antics, and actually got super loud towards the end as the score got close," said Duffy, who suited up for the game in a blue uniform

speaking to the VICE crew in Pyongyang.

"They bonded during the game," Smith said by telephone from New York after speaking to the crew. "They were both enjoying

bassardor at a time when North Koreans are girding for battle with the U.S. Just last week, Kim guided front line troops in military exercises.

North Korea and the U.S.

WHO:

Slight cancer risk after Japan nuke accident

MARIA CHENG

AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP)

— Two years after Japan's nuclear plant disaster, an international team of experts said Thursday that residents of areas hit by the highest doses of radiation face an increased cancer risk so small it probably won't be detectable.

In fact, experts calculated that increase at about 1 extra percentage point added to a Japanese infant's lifetime cancer risk.

"The additional risk is quite small and will probably be hidden by the noise of other (cancer) risks like people's lifestyle choices and statistical fluctuations," said

Richard Wakeford of the University of Manchester, one of the authors of the report. "It's more important not to start smoking than having been in Fukushima." The report was issued by the World Health Organization, which asked scientists to study the health effects of the disaster in Fukushima, a rural farming region.

On March 11, 2011, an earthquake and tsunami knocked out the Fukushima plant's power and cooling systems, causing meltdowns in three reactors and spewing radiation into the surrounding air, soil and water. The most exposed populations were directly under the plumes of radia-

tion in the most affected communities in Fukushima, which is about 150 miles (240 kilometers) north of Tokyo.

In the report, the highest increases in risk are for people exposed as babies to radiation in the most heavily affected areas. Normally in Japan, the lifetime risk of developing cancer of an organ is about 41 percent for men and 29 percent for women. The new report said that for infants in the most heavily exposed areas, the radiation from Fukushima would add about 1 percentage point to those numbers.

Experts had been particularly worried about a spike

in thyroid cancer, since radioactive iodine released in nuclear accidents is absorbed by the thyroid, especially in children. After the Chernobyl disaster, about 6,000 children exposed to radiation later developed thyroid cancer because many drank contaminated milk after the accident.

In Japan, dairy radiation levels were closely monitored, but children are not big milk drinkers there.

The WHO report estimated that women exposed as infants to the most radiation after the Fukushima accident would have a 70 percent higher chance of getting thyroid cancer in their lifetimes. □

Cuts imminent, Senate rejects stopgap efforts

Continued from front

Moments later, a Democratic alternative to spread the cuts over a decade and replace half with higher taxes on millionaires and corporations won a bare majority, 51-49, but that was well shy of the 60 needed to advance. Republicans opposed it without exception.

In a written statement after the votes, Obama lambasted Republicans. "They voted to let the entire burden of deficit reduction fall squarely on the middle class," he said.

He noted that he would meet with congressional leaders from both parties at the White House on Friday, but no one is expecting action before the cuts begin taking effect. Obama said, "We can build on the over \$2.5 trillion in deficit reduction we've already

achieved, but doing so will require Republicans to compromise. That's how our democracy works, and that's what the American people deserve."

Said House Speaker John Boehner, the top Republican in Congress: "Obama and Senate Democrats are demanding more tax hikes to fuel more 'stimulus' spending." Though furloughs are a fear for some, especially certain federal workers, there is little sign of business worry, let alone panic in the nation. Stocks declined slightly for the day after trading near record highs. And unlike the "fiscal cliff" showdown of two months ago, there are no deadlines for action to prevent tax increases from hitting nearly every American. Still, there was talk of crisis. "We have the opportunity to avoid the kind of calamity and disaster that is being threatened and is



House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of Calif., joined by fellow House Democratic women, gestures during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013, to talk about the impending automatic spending cuts that take effect March 1.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

completely unnecessary," said Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania, who co-authored the Republican proposal.

"The question is, are we going to achieve these savings through badly designed spending cuts that make no attempt whatever to distinguish between

more sensible government spending and less sensible spending?" Sen. Patty Murray of Washington said that was precisely what Democrats had tried to do by proposing the deferral of Pentagon cuts until U.S. combat troops have come home from Afghanistan in two years' time.

At the same time, she said the Democrats had reasonably proposed replacing half of the pending cuts with higher taxes on "the wealthiest Americans and biggest corporations." In fact, the Democratic measure also included small increases for a variety of small programs such as biodiesel education, assistance for biomass crops and certification of organic foods. Boehner and House Republicans show no hurry to alter the cuts, contending they provide leverage with Obama in their demand for savings from government benefit programs. Yet they are expected to launch legislation next week to replenish government coffers after current funding expires on March 27, and that measure could become a magnet for new attempts to change Friday's "sequester." □



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Obama asks court to overturn gay marriage ban

JULIE PACE

MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration asked the Supreme Court on Thursday to overturn California's ban on same-sex marriage and take a skeptical view of similar bans elsewhere, making a historic argument for gay rights.

The Obama administration's friend-of-the-court brief marked the first time a U.S. president has urged the high court to expand the right of gays and lesbians to wed. The filing unequivocally calls on the justices to strike down a 2008 ballot measure that barred gays and lesbians from wedding in California. It does not explicitly call for marriage equality across the United States but points the court in that direction. The administration's position, if adopted by the court, probably would result in gay marriage becoming legal in seven other states that, like California, give gay couples all the benefits of marriage, but don't allow them to wed.

They are: Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Nevada, New

Jersey, Oregon and Rhode Island.

The brief marks President Barack Obama's most expansive view of the legal rights of gays and lesbians



President Barack Obama speaks at the Business Council dinner in Washington. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

to marry. He announced his personal support for gay marriage last year but has said the issue should be governed by states.

The denial of marriage to same-sex couples, "particularly where California at the same time grants same-sex partners all the substantive rights of marriage, violates equal protection," the administration said.

In the longer term, the administration urges the jus-

tices to subject laws that discriminate on sexual orientation to more rigorous review than usual, a standard that would imperil other state bans on same-

sex marriage.

Obama, a former constitutional law professor, raised expectations that he would back a broad brief during his inauguration address on Jan. 21. He said the nation's journey "is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law."

"For if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well,"

Obama said.

Obama has a complicated history on gay marriage. As a presidential candidate in 2008, he opposed the California ban but didn't endorse gay marriage. He later said his personal views on gay marriage were "evolving." When he ran for re-election last year, Obama announced his personal support for same-sex marriage, but said marriage was an issue that states, not the federal government, should decide.

American public opinion has shifted in support of gay marriage in recent years.

In May 2008, Gallup found that 56 percent of Americans felt same-sex marriages should not be recognized by the law as

valid. By last November, 53 percent felt they should be legally recognized.

The Justice Department planned to submit its brief later Thursday, the deadline for filing in the California case. The justices will hear oral arguments in the case on March 26.

The Proposition 8 ballot initiative was approved by California voters in 2008 in response to a state Supreme Court decision that had allowed gay marriage. Twenty-nine other states have constitutional amendments banning gay marriage; nine states and the Washington federal district recognize same-sex marriage.

In recent days, many states, organizations and individuals have filed briefs in the case. □

Town stunned by gay candidate murder

Associated Press

JACKSON, Mississippi (AP)

— A town in conservative Mississippi that is famous for its blues music has been stunned by the killing of an openly gay candidate for mayor.

The black man, 34-year-old Marco McMillian, was considered by many to be a man on the rise, even though the Democrat wasn't running what many would consider a typical campaign for political office.

McMillian may have been the first openly gay man to be a viable candidate for public office in the Southern state, campaign spokesman Jarod Keith said. Word spread fast when his SUV was involved in a wreck this week, and he was nowhere to be found. His body was discovered near a Mississippi

River levee Wednesday. Authorities were investigating McMillian's death as a homicide but they released few other details.

On Thursday, the Sheriff's Department said 22-year-old Lawrence Reed was charged with murder in the death.

Photos on McMillian's website and Facebook page show him with a younger Barack Obama and former President Bill Clinton. He met them while serving for four years as international executive director of the historically black Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.

A statement from the fraternity said he had secured the first federal contract to raise awareness about the impact of HIV and AIDS on communities of color. It noted that Ebony Magazine had recognized him in 2004 as one of the na-

tion's "30 up-and-coming African Americans" under age 30.

Supporters say McMillian had big ideas for Clarksdale, a town of about 17,800 people.

The town is well known to blues fans as the home of "the crossroads," where Robert Johnson is said to have sold his soul to the devil for skills with a guitar. Academy Award-winning actor and Mississippi native Morgan Freeman is part owner of the Ground Zero Blues Club in town.

Clarksdale is also hounded by the poverty typical of the Mississippi Delta.

The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund and Institute tweeted: "Our hearts go out to the family and friends of Marco McMillian, one of the 1st viable openly (hash)LGBT candidates in Mississippi." □

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GI pleads guilty in WikiLeaks case, faces 20 years

BEN NUCKOLS

Associated Press

FORT MEADE, Maryland

(AP) — The Army private arrested in the biggest leak of classified material in U.S. history pleaded guilty Thursday to 10 charges that could send him to prison for 20 years, saying he was trying to expose the American military's "bloodlust" and disregard for human life in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Military prosecutors said they plan to move forward with a court-martial on the 12 remaining charges against Bradley Manning, including aiding the enemy, which carries a potential life sentence.

For the first time, Manning directly admitted leaking the material to the anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks and detailed the frustrations that led him to do it.

"I began to become depressed at the situation we found ourselves mired in year after year. In attempting counterinsurgency operations, we became obsessed with capturing and killing human targets on lists," the 25-year-old

former intelligence analyst in Baghdad told a military judge.

He added: "I wanted the public to know that not everyone living in Iraq were targets to be neutralized." The slightly built soldier from Oklahoma read from a 35-page statement through his wire-rimmed glasses for more than an hour. He spoke quickly and evenly, showing little emotion even when he described how troubled he was by what he had seen.

The judge, Col. Denise Lind, accepted his plea to 10 charges involving illegal possession or distribution of classified material. Manning was allowed to plead guilty under military regulations instead of federal espionage law, which knocked the potential sentence down from 92 years. He will not be sentenced until his court-martial on the other charges is over.

Manning admitted sending hundreds of thousands of Iraq and Afghanistan battlefield reports, State Department diplomatic cables, other classified records and two battlefield



Army Pfc. Bradley Manning, front, is escorted out of a courthouse in Fort Meade, Md., Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013, after a pretrial military hearing. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

video clips to WikiLeaks in 2009 and 2010.

He said he was disturbed by the conduct of the wars

in Afghanistan and Iraq and the way American troops treated the populace. He said he did not

believe the release of the information would harm the U.S.

"I believed that if the general public, especially the American public, had access to the information ... this could spark a domestic debate on the role of the military and our foreign policy in general," Manning said.

Manning said he was appalled by 2007 combat video of an assault by a U.S. helicopter that killed 11 men, including a Reuters news photographer. The Pentagon concluded the troops mistook the camera equipment for weapons.

"The most alarming aspect of the video to me was the seemingly delightful bloodlust the aerial weapons team happened to have," Manning said, adding that the soldiers' actions "seemed similar to a child torturing ants with a magnifying glass."

As for the sensitive State Department cables, he said they "documented backdoor deals and criminality that didn't reflect the so-called leader of the free world." □



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Fort Hood suspect trial set for May 29

ANGELA K. BROWN

Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP)

— The Army psychiatrist charged in the deadly 2009 Fort Hood shooting rampage is to go on trial in three months, after several delays in the case, including an unexpected snag over his beard. A military judge Thursday set Maj. Nidal Hasan's court-martial for May 29 at the Texas Army post. After about four weeks of jury selection, testimony is to begin July 1.

The judge, Col. Tara Osborn, said she expects testimony in the trial to last up to three months. The government has nearly 300 witnesses. Hasan, 42, faces the death penalty or life without parole if convicted of 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder in the worst mass shooting on a U.S. military installation.

Hasan's trial initially was set for last March, then delayed to June and then to August after defense attorneys said they needed more time to prepare. Less than a week before it was to start, the trial unexpectedly was put on hold when Hasan appealed an order by then-judge Col. Gregory Gross that his beard would be forcibly shaved before trial. Although facial hair violates Army rules, Hasan started growing a beard last summer, saying it was required by his Muslim faith. Hasan appealed again in September after Gross issued a definitive, written order for the forced shaving. Proceedings resumed in December after the appeals court ousted Gross from the case and threw out his order.

Osborn, the new judge, won't order Hasan to shave. If he still has a beard

at trial, jurors likely would be told not to consider his appearance when deciding on a verdict.

Osborn didn't rule Thursday on defense requests to select jurors from another military branch instead of the Army — an unprecedented action for a court-martial — or to move the trial away from Fort Hood. Lt. Col. Kris Poppe, lead defense attorney, said his client could not get a fair trial at Fort Hood because of rampant hostility, such as the extreme security measures that seem to indicate Hasan is a target or is dangerous. He also said jurors should come from the Navy or Air Force because Army officers had been exposed to more pretrial publicity about the case.

But prosecutors said extra security would be in place no matter where the trial was held because it was such a high-profile case. □

Vegas shooting suspect arrested in Los Angeles

KEN RITTER

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A self-described pimp was arrested Thursday in Los Angeles, ending a manhunt that began after a vehicle-to-vehicle shooting and spectacular, fiery crash that killed three people on the Las Vegas Strip a week ago, police said.

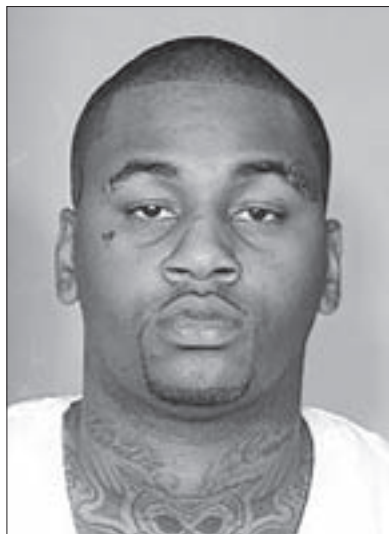
Ammar Harris, 26, surrendered to a team of police and federal agents who found him inside a North Hollywood apartment after a woman answered the door, authorities said.

In Nevada, Sheriff Douglas Gillespie and Las Vegas police Capt. Chris Jones scheduled a late afternoon media briefing about the arrest.

Harris, whose Internet posts show him with fists full of money boasting of a high-rolling lifestyle with prostitutes, was the subject of the multi-state search after the Feb. 21 attack at a neon-lit intersection that's home to posh casino resorts such as Bellagio, Bally's, Flamingo and Caesars

Palace.

Court documents allege Harris was driving his black Range Rover sports utility vehicle when he fired into a Maserati sports car, kill-



Las Vegas police Capt. Chris Jones says Ammar Harris (in photo) was arrested Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013 by a team of police and federal agents in North Hollywood, Calif.

(AP Photo/LAMPD)

ing self-promoted rapper Kenneth Wayne Cherry Jr. The two men had argued minutes earlier in the valet area of a Las Vegas Strip resort.

The Maserati with Cherry

mortally wounded at the wheel sped forward and slammed into a taxi that burst into flames. The cabbie, 62-year-old Michael Boldon, and his passenger, 48-year-old Sandra Sutton-Wasmund of Maple Valley, Washington, were killed.

The crash closed the Strip for about 15 hours. Earlier Thursday, Las Vegas police revealed they had found and talked with all three women who were in the SUV with Harris during the shooting.

Police found SUV passenger Tineesha Lashun Howard in another, undisclosed state late Wednesday. Las Vegas police Capt. Chris Jones said police previously found and interviewed the two other women.

Jones wouldn't release the names of the other passengers but said none of the three women had been charged with a crime. Police were concerned about their safety, he said.

Howard, a 22-year-old from Miami with a history of prostitution arrests, also uses the names Yenesys Alfonso or Yani. She was identified by police on Tuesday as a person of interest in the case who might have been in danger.

Las Vegas police also sought Thursday to stop the circulation of several photos the department issued Tuesday and Wednesday in the search for Harris. Police said they depict people unconnected with the case.

Harris was arrested last year in Las Vegas in a 2010

prostitution case using the name Ammar Asim Faruq Harris. He was charged with robbery, sexual assault, kidnapping and coercion with a weapon, and police sought charges of pandering by force and felon in possession of concealed weapon. Court records show that case was dismissed last June.

Harris was convicted in South Carolina in 2004 of felony possession with intent to sell a stolen pistol and convicted that same year in Atlanta of a misdemeanor marijuana possession charge. □

Witness: NYC officer eyed colleague for kidnap

L. NEUMEISTER

TOM HAYS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A police officer on trial for conspiracy to commit cannibalism considered the woman who was his New York Police department supervisor as a potential target of kidnap and torture, an FBI agent testified Thursday. The testimony came amid a report that a man considered to be one of Officer Gilberto Valle's co-conspirators, identified in the U.S. case by the online name Moody Blues, had been detained but released in a separate case in Great Britain.

Returning to the witness stand at Valle's federal trial in Manhattan, FBI agent Corey Walsh told jurors that a search of Valle's computer had turned up a file with multiple photos of a woman the agent identified as an NYPD officer who supervised Valle. The

government had previously introduced a transcript of a February 2012 email exchange in which Valle offered a co-conspirator a menu of women he could abduct for rape and torture.

"The second girl listed is a cop - Evelyn, 33 years old," Valle wrote.

"No I want a reg girl," the man responded.

The revelation came as the defense sought to discredit allegations that the 28-year-old Valle conspired with Internet friends to kidnap, kill and eat women, pressing Walsh on why some communications were deemed proof of a crime while others were deemed fantasies. Defense attorney Robert Baum directed Walsh to obvious falsehoods in communications that the government has used as evidence Valle was a threat. In one, Moody Blues insisted he and Valle would

need a secluded place to cook a woman alive.

"I have a place on the mountains," Valle wrote. "Nobody's around for three quarters of a mile."

Asked if that was true, Walsh testified that authorities "are not aware of a place he had in the mountains."

Valle has been held without bail since October, when he was arrested on charges of conspiring to kidnap women in a cannibalism plot born on the Internet.

Throughout the trial, which began Monday, Valle's lawyers have attacked government evidence as nothing more than the reflection of a man engaging in extreme sexual fantasies with like-minded people around the world. The government has conceded that Valle never met the purported Internet co-conspirators and no women were harmed. □

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Q&A: Chances of a horse meat scandal in the US?

MARY JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The horse meat scandal that is hitting Europe has yet to spread to the United States, allowing American consumers to rest easier when buying ground beef or sitting down for a plate of meatballs at Ikea.

The United States has rigorous meat inspections and horse meat isn't readily available. So, while it's certainly possible that small amounts of hidden horse meat has made its way into the United States, it's unlikely to become a larger problem.

Some questions and answers about the problem:

Q: What's happening in Europe?

A: Horse meat has recently been found mixed into beef dishes sold across Europe, including in frozen supermarket meals. It also has been found in meals served at restaurants, schools and hospitals. Furniture giant Ikea this week withdrew its famous meatballs from stores in 21 European countries and in Hong Kong, Thailand and the Dominican Republic after Czech food inspectors found traces of horse meat in them. Stores in the United States and Canada weren't affected because they use a U.S. supplier.

Q: Is horse meat safe to eat?

A: What is at issue is fraudulent labeling, not a health risk. Horse meat is usually safe to eat, but it's generally not consumed in the United States, mostly for cultural and ethical reasons. However, it's consid-

ered a delicacy in some countries.

Q: Are horses even slaughtered in the U.S.?

A: Not right now. Three horse slaughter plants were shuttered five years ago after court action. Those plants produced meat that was mostly sold overseas.

Q: But horses are slaughtered in Mexico and Canada. Companies could import that meat and use it as

terhouse to operate and those inspectors are present for many steps of the process. They can shut down the plants if they think something illegal is going on. The federal oversight also requires meat to be easily traceable to the plant where the animals were slaughtered.

Q: What about imports?

A: Only certain countries and companies can export

once every three years in every country that exports meat, poultry or egg products to the United States.

Q: What about packaged goods and processed foods from Europe or other regions that may include meat as an ingredient? Could those include horse meat?

A: That is one possible loophole. The Agriculture Department won't say if it has

of interest in wading into the European horse meat scandal. The Associated Press contacted Wal-Mart, Safeway, Kroger, Costco, Trader Joe's, Whole Foods and other food industry representatives this week to ask what they are doing to ensure their products don't have horse meat. None of the companies responded. Steven Guterman, chief executive officer of InstantLabs, a company that makes DNA tests that could detect horse meat, says his company has received orders for the tests from Europe but not from the United States since the scandal broke.

Q: What about fast-food restaurants that sell huge volumes of beef?

A: Burger King says it has conducted unannounced audits of all of its suppliers globally, including in the United States, to ensure their meat is 100 percent beef.

The company says most of its U.S. restaurants use domestic suppliers but some of the meat is from Australia and New Zealand, and that meat has been DNA tested for horse meat. McDonald's said in a statement that the company "only works with a select group of approved beef suppliers that adhere to our stringent standards."

Q: Should I be worried?

A: No. There just isn't enough horse meat in the U.S. for it to make sense for meatpackers to illegally mix it in, and U.S. meat inspections in plants and checks at the border would most likely catch any large-scale scams. □



The outside of a butchers where horsemeat is available, in Paris. Americans are wondering what the odds are of a similar situation arising in the United States, and what this would mean to the consumer: The Associated Press has the answers!

(AP Photo/Jacques Brinon)

a cheap substitute for beef, right?

A: Probably not. No horse meat is imported to the United States, so it would be hard for U.S. companies to obtain it in large quantities.

Q: What is the U.S. government doing to make sure Americans don't face the problem?

A: U.S. food safety law requires meat inspectors to be present for a slaugh-

terhouse to operate and those inspectors are present for many steps of the process. They can shut down the plants if they think something illegal is going on. The federal oversight also requires meat to be easily traceable to the plant where the animals were slaughtered.

additional checks on packaged or processed imports — European foods sold at specialty stores, for example. It is probably impossible for the government to test all those things at the border.

Q: Are large retailers conducting tests to make sure that horse meat hasn't made its way into their products?

A: Unclear. Most U.S. retailers don't have a lot

Syrians clash around 12th century mosque in Aleppo

BARBARA SURK
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian rebels clashed with regime troops in the narrow stone alleyways around a historic 12th century mosque in the Old City of Aleppo on Thursday, while a government airstrike north of the city killed at least seven people, activists said.

The rebels, who have been slowly chipping away at the regime's hold on Aleppo, received a boost from the U.S. in their fight to oust Syrian President Bashar Assad. Washington pledged an additional \$60 million in assistance to the opposition and — in a significant policy shift — said that for the first time it will provide non-lethal aid like food and medical supplies directly to rebel forces on the ground. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry announced the decision Thursday on the sidelines of an international conference on Syria in Rome. European nations also were expected to signal their intention to provide fresh assistance to the opposition, possibly including defensive military hardware. The rebels have made a number of strategic gains in northern Syria in recent weeks, including the capture of a hydroelectric dam and some military bases. They also have been regularly hitting the heart of Damascus with mortar rounds, puncturing the aura of normalcy that the regime has tried to cul-

tivate in the capital. In Aleppo, a key battleground in the civil war, clashes raged around the landmark Umayyad Mosque in the walled Old City, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. The rebels control one part of the mosque, and government troops hold the other. Rebels launched an of-

Mosque of Aleppo, sits near a medieval covered market in the Old City, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site. North of Aleppo, a government airstrike on the village of Deir Jamal killed at least seven people, including five children, according to the Observatory. It was not immediately clear what the target was, but regime warplanes frequently carry

of anonymity in line with regulations. With the bloodshed showing no sign of abating, the Syrian opposition has grown increasingly frustrated with what it sees as the international community's apathy toward the suffering on the ground.

On Thursday, the Syrian National Coalition, an opposition umbrella group, posted a statement on its Facebook page saying 72 bodies had been discov-

ered in the village of Maalikiyah, south of Aleppo. It blamed the purported killings, which the SNC said took place on Feb. 25, on Assad's forces, and demanded that countries at the Rome conference "take a serious and firm position on the regime's crimes, which continue to cast a dark shadow of failure and weakness on any international efforts sought to provide support to the Syrian people." □



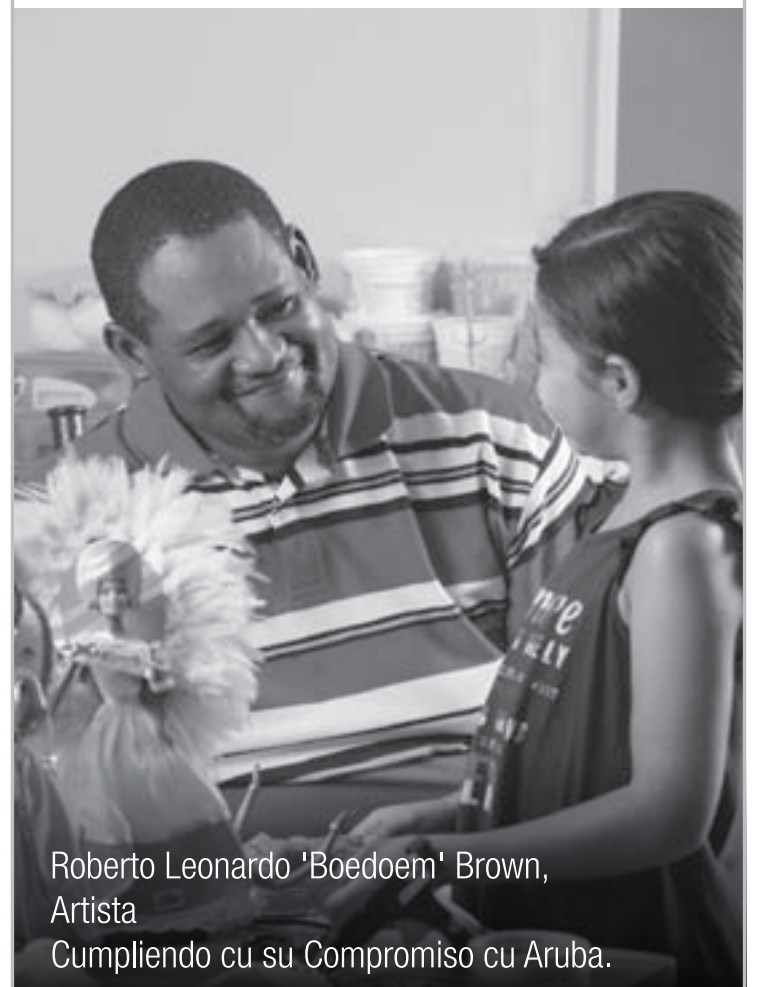
A Free Syrian Army fighter from the Knights of the North brigade moves to reconnaissance a Syrian army forces base of al-Karmid, at Jabal al-Zaweya, in Idlib province, Syria.

(AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

fensive on Aleppo, Syria's largest urban center and its commercial capital, in July 2012. Since then, the city has been carved into rebel- and government-controlled zones in brutal street fighting that has destroyed entire neighborhoods and damaged some of the ancient city's rich archaeological and cultural heritage. The Umayyad Mosque, also known as the Great

out bombing runs on rebel-held towns. Farther south, in the central city of Homs, the state news agency said a car bomb caused casualties and extensive material damage, but it did not elaborate. An official in the Homs governor's office told The Associated Press that there were two blasts and that four people were killed and at least six wounded. The official spoke on condition

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China says US-based hackers target its websites

BEIJING (AP) — China's military said Thursday that overseas computer hackers targeted two of its websites an average of 144,000 times per month last year, with almost two-thirds of the attacks originating in the United States.

The claim from Defense Ministry spokesman Geng Yansheng follows accusations last week by American cybersecurity company Mandiant that Chinese military-backed cyberspies infiltrated overseas networks and stole massive amounts of data from U.S. companies and other entities. China denied the allegations, and its military said it has never supported any hacking activity.

Geng told reporters at a

monthly news conference that an average of 62.9 percent of the attacks on the Defense Ministry's official website and that of its newspaper, the People's Liberation Army Daily, came from the U.S.

"Like other countries, China faces a serious threat from hacking and is one of the primary victims of hacking in the world," Geng said. "Numbers of attacks have been on the rise in recent years."

Geng attacked the Mandiant report, which blamed hacking on the People's Liberation Army's Shanghai-based Unit 61398, as "unprofessional and not in accordance with the facts."

He also criticized the U.S.



U.S. and Chinese national flags are hung outside a hotel by the U.S. embassy in Beijing. China's military said Thursday that overseas computer hackers targeted two of its websites an average of 144,000 times per month last year, with almost two-thirds of the attacks originating in the United States.

(AP Photo/Andy Wong)

military's cyber command for impeding international efforts at controlling hacking.

The Mandiant report was widely praised by cybersecurity professionals interviewed by The Associated

Press, who said it provided the most detailed picture yet of China's state-sponsored hacking efforts. □

Brazil:

US State Department employee slain

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A vacationing employee of the U.S. Department of State was found strangled in a Rio de Janeiro hotel, police said Thursday.

Rivaldo Barbosa, head of the Rio police homicide division, identified the victim as 38-year-old Victoria Tcaciuc and said she was killed Feb. 20. A hotel employee found her body the same day.

Police have arrested a suspect who is seen in security camera video entering the hotel in Rio's Copacabana neighborhood, Barbosa said. It is unclear when Tcaciuc arrived in Brazil,

but Barbosa said at a news conference that she was planning to visit at least four other cities before returning to the United States on March 4. She was divorced and had no children. The press office of the U.S. Consulate in Rio said Tcaciuc was a contract employee of the State Department. Citing privacy act considerations, the consulate did not provide her hometown or other information.

William Ostick, a spokesman with the State Department in Washington, said in an email: "We were deeply saddened to learn of the

death of Department of State contractor Victoria Tcaciuc. We express our deepest condolences to her friends."

The arrested man, identified as Alessandro Rufino Oliveira Carvalho, has acknowledged that he was with Tcaciuc in the room but denies killing her, Barbosa said.

Barbosa said Carvalho left the hotel less than an hour after entering and traveled to Sao Paulo. He was arrested Thursday when as he was returning to Rio.

The two apparently met at a crafts fair, had lunch and then went to the hotel. □



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Many Venezuelans believe in Chavez recovery



A woman holds a picture of Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez during an event commemorating the violent street protests of 1989 known as the "Caracazo," in Caracas, Venezuela. (AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

FRANK BAJAK
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela's vice president said Thursday that Hugo Chavez is still fighting for his life, yet a recent poll says three in five Venezuelans believe their president will return to power. Nicolas Maduro, Chavez's self-appointed successor, said on television that his boss "is battling there for his health, for his life, and we're accompanying him." The vice president had characterized Chavez's condition similarly on Dec. 20, saying the president "is fighting a great battle ... for his life, for his health." Chavez hasn't spoken or been seen since before his fourth operation in Cuba on Dec. 11 for an unspecified cancer in the pelvic

area. The government says he has been breathing with the help of a tracheal tube after surviving a serious respiratory infection. It says Chavez returned on Feb. 18 and is at a military hospital in Caracas for continued treatment for "respiratory insufficiency." Despite speculation by doctors not involved in Chavez's treatment that it is most likely palliative, designed only to make him more comfortable in his remaining days, many Venezuelans apparently believe — or want to believe — he is on the mend. "The president's prolonged absence and his critical situation have not been converted into massive pessimism about his return," respected pollster Luis Vicen-

te Leon tweeted Thursday. He said nearly 58 percent of Venezuelans believe Chavez will recover while about 30 percent believe he will not return to power and 12.5 percent say they don't know what will happen. One percent, meanwhile, believe Chavez was never sick. Leon, chief of the Datanalisis polling firm, told The Associated Press that the Feb. 11 poll of 1,198 people had

an error margin of three percentage points. He said he thought the poll reflected people's desire not to believe the worst about someone who is dear to them, just as people resist accepting that a close relative might be dying. Leon also said he thought reports of government officials holding hours-long meetings with Chavez had contributed to the belief

of many Venezuelans that Chavez will return. "The government has sent permanent messages that President Chavez will return, that he meets with the vice president for five hours," Leon noted. He said people don't necessarily believe that, however, as the poll found 44 percent think the government has not been transparent in discussing the Chavez's health. □

ATENCION

CAP Compania Arubano di Petroleo N.V. ta informa publico en general cu e compania REPSOL lo haci un investigacion di exploracion sismico den lama rond di Aruba.

- E exploracion sismico aki ta tuma luga den cumplimiento di un contract entre REPSOL y CAP a base di articulo 3 y 4 di e "Petroleumverordening zeegebied Aruba".
- E investigacion sismico lo cuminsa dia 15 di februari 2013 y lo dura mas of menos 40 dia.
- E barco sismico SR/V VANTAGE lo rastra un kabel cu un largura di 6 kilometer pa 9 kilometer y un diameter di 6 centimeter na un profundidad di 8 meter pa 10 meter bao di awa.
- Dos otro barco di apoyo OMS RESOLUTION y ELIZABETH-C lo duna sosten logistico na e operacionnan di e investigacion y lo mantene comunicacion cu barconan den e area.
- Tur actividad lo ta na un distancia di mas di 3 kilometer for di costa.
- CAP N.V. ta haci un peticion na tur doño di barco pa coopera pa e investigacion por tuma lugar na un forma sigur y adecuado.

CAP Compania Arubano di Petroleo N.V. brings to the attention of the public in general that the company REPSOL will be conducting a seismic exploration survey offshore Aruba.

- This seismic survey is conducted in fulfillment of a contract between REPSOL and CAP in accordance with articles 3 and 4 of the Petroleum Ordinance offshore Aruba.
- The seismic survey will start the 15th of February 2013 and will have a duration of 40 days approximately.
- The seismic vessel SR/V VANTAGE will tow a submarine cable of 6 – 9 kilometers with a diameter of 6 centimeter at a depth of 8 - 10 meters below sealevel.
- Two support vessels OMS RESOLUTION and ELIZABETH-C will give logistical assistance to the operations during the seismic survey and will maintain communications with other ships in the area.
- All seismic acquisition will be conducted at a distance of more than 3 kilometer from the coast.
- CAP N.V. requests the co-operation of boat owners in order to ensure that the survey is conducted in a safe and proper manner.



Tuna collapse fears fail to curb Japan's appetite

MALCOLM FOSTER

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — It is the king of sushi, one of the most expensive fish in the world — and dwindling so rapidly that some fear it could vanish from restaurant menus within a generation. Yet there is little alarm in Japan, the country that consumes about 80 percent of the world's bluefin tuna. Japanese fisheries experts blame cozy ties between regulators and fishermen and a complacent media for failing to raise public awareness.

"Nobody really knows the bad state bluefin tuna is in," veteran sushi chef Kazuo Nagayama said from his snug, top-end sushi bar in Tokyo's Shimbashi district, a popular area for after-work socializing. "I don't think it'll disappear, but we might not be able to catch any. It's obvious we need to set quotas."

Catching bluefin tuna, called "hon-maguro" here, is a lucrative business. A single full-grown specimen can sell for 2 million yen, or \$22,000, at Tokyo's sprawling Tsukiji fish market. Japanese fishermen are vying with Korean, Taiwanese and Mexican counterparts for a piece of a \$900 million a year wholesale market. Fish dealers at Tsukiji market say the number of bluefin sold at early morning auctions has fallen over

the past 10 to 15 years, but most are confident the supply will never run out. Sushi bars and supermarkets still readily sell the fish, which is considered a special treat that families might splurge on once every month or two. There's no government campaign

found that Pacific bluefin spawning stocks — a key measure of adults that can reproduce — have plummeted by about three-quarters over the past 15 years to match historic lows last seen in the early 1980s. It estimated that the species has dwindled to



An employee of Kiyomura Co., poses with a head of a bluefin tuna at Sushi Zanmai restaurant near Tsukiji fish market in Tokyo. Catching bluefin tuna, called 'hon-maguro' here, is a lucrative business. A single full-grown specimen can sell for 2 million yen, or \$20,000, at Tokyo's sprawling Tsukiji fish market. Japanese fishermen are vying with Korean, Taiwanese and Mexican fisherman for a piece of a \$900 million wholesale market.

(AP Photo/Koji Sasahara)

to encourage people to rein in their appetites for the iconic Japanese food. "I have seen some reports on TV about their numbers falling, but I really haven't thought about cutting back on eating hon-maguro," said Sumire Baba, a Tokyo homemaker. "I guess I'm optimistic they'll recover." A scientific assessment released in January

just 3.6 percent of its original population, and that more than 90 percent of fish caught were juveniles between the ages of 0 and 3, before they reach reproductive maturity.

The report, compiled by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the Northern Pacific and based on data through

2010, received only scant coverage in the Japanese press.

The Yomiuri Shimbun, Japan's largest newspaper, ran a brief story that ignored the drop in numbers and focused on a projection offered by the report's authors that Pacific stocks could triple by 2030 if current "effort limits" were fully enforced — coverage that a senior Fisheries Agency official blasted as "misleading." News reports earlier this year about the record 155.4 million yen (\$1.76 million) auction sale of a Pacific bluefin at the Tsukiji market focused mostly on the exorbitant price and the buyer — the owner of a sushi chain — with little context about the species' falling numbers.

The drop follows similar plunges in the other two bluefin species, the Atlantic and the southern, which are now protected by catch quotas that experts say need to be applied to their Pacific cousins as well. Without stricter caps, "there is a high likelihood that Pacific bluefin will become less available to Japanese consumers," said Masayuki Komatsu, a former senior Fisheries Agency official. Japan faces two choices, he said: Immediately impose catch quotas or "stop eating the bluefin to protect it."

Overfishing of the Atlantic bluefin, much of it shipped to Japan, got so bad that an export ban was proposed in 2010 at a meeting of the 175-nation Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The proposal was rejected, and Atlantic bluefin stocks recovered slightly last year after quotas were imposed, although environmental groups say the population

remains fragile.

While the media plays a role, the Fisheries Agency, domestic scientists and fishing industry are mainly responsible for failing to address the problem and keeping the public in the dark, Komatsu and other critics say. During his tenure at the agency until 2005, regulators were often more intent on protecting fishermen than marine resources, he said, and they were also reluctant to publicize information about declining fish stocks or impose catch limits for fear of upsetting fishermen or politicians. "Government officials don't want to accept the facts," Komatsu said. "Their constituents are fishermen. ... In order to be successful as a government official, you have to listen to the fishermen because they are closely connected to the politicians. It's all very short-sighted." Toshio Katsukawa, a fisheries professor at Mie University in western Japan, said the industry has been allowed to pursue indiscriminate fishing for years. "This is undermining Japan's own national interests," he said. "We have an international responsibility in this matter. It's a problem if we are not able to responsibly catch and consume these fish."

That may have been a valid criticism in the past, acknowledged Masanori Miyahara, the deputy director-general of the Japan Fisheries Agency. But over the past five or six years "our policy has changed," he said in an interview in his Tokyo office. "Now we are in the driver's seat."

"Previously, there was almost no control over the bluefin catch because so many fishermen were catching them."



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Ne-Yo, D'Angelo to Headline 2013 Soul Beach Music Festival!

- Headliner Sinbad Featuring Paige Bryan with Memphis Red and The Funk Stank Nasty Band Kicks-Off Memorial Day Weekend with A Night of Funk and Comedy!

ORANJESTAD - What better way to spend your Memorial Day Weekend than in paradise watching Ne-Yo and D'Angelo take the stage? Along with comedian Sinbad and other performances yet to be announced, the two stars will do just that starting May 22nd at the Soul Beach Music Festival on the island of Aruba.

Soul Beach Music Festival is thrilled to announce the addition of Grammy-Award winning singer D'Angelo to the spectacular line-up of musical brilliance as he joins three-time Grammy Award-Winning Ne-Yo on the main stage of the Nikky Beach Amphitheatre in Aruba on Memorial Day weekend. D'Angelo will take to the stage with a luminous show on Saturday, May 25 and Ne-Yo will close



out the three-night main stage spectacle with an iridescent performance on Sunday, May 26. Bringing the funk to the all-star comedy night will be Sinbad featuring Paige Bryan with Memphis Red

and the Funk Stank Nasty Band - A Night of Funk and Comedy on Friday, May 24. Additional artists will be announced soon.

The 2013 Soul Beach Music Festival will roll out more highly anticipated announcements of main stage performing artists in the weeks to come. For information about ticket sales, accommodations and the latest updates sign up for CLUB SOUL BEACH, visit www.soulbeach.net or www.aruba.com. Join the Soul Beach Music Festival community: follow us on Twitter @SoulBeachMusic and become a fan of 2013 Soul Beach Music Festival on www.Facebook.com/soulbeachmusic.

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Croes, CEO of the Aruba Tourism Authority.

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Renaissance Aruba offers Luxurious Private Island Escape



ORANJESTAD, ARUBA-- (Marketwire) - Lounging on a private island with turquoise waters glistening under the sun, the gentle sound of waves crashing on the shore and everything from a relaxing massage to a cooling cocktail just steps away; sounds like a dream, but the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino is making that wish come true. The Private Island Escape,

available at the resort's two separate boutique hotels in Aruba, offers families, couples and friends the chance to enjoy a private island experience for 35% off. Rates at both the adults-only Renaissance Marina Hotel and the family-friendly Renaissance Ocean Suites start at just \$312.65 a night for a resort room and \$426.40 for an ocean suite.

Available only through April 4, 2013, this Aruba vacation deal is a great way to save on a last-minute getaway. Surprise a sweetheart, take a long overdue family vacation or grab some friends for a fun-filled spring break. No matter the reason for their stay, guests of these Aruba beach resorts will enjoy the serene setting of private beaches, accessible via water taxi and ex-

clusive to guests only. For adults, time spent at the private pool, 24-hour casino, onsite designer boutiques and luxurious spa can fill a day. Patamingo Kids Club offers everything from face-painting and coloring contests to fish-feeding and bingo for kids ages 5 to 12.

To book the Private Island Escape at this resort's two Aruba luxury hotels, visit www.marriott.com/specials. Rates are in U.S. dollars and are subject to a 22.64% government room tax and service charge. About the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino A 40-acre island paradise, the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino caters to family travel and adults-only vacations with two distinct hotels. At Renaissance Marina Hotel, guests 18 and older can enjoy a grownup experience with a private pool and special amenities. At the Renaissance Ocean Suites, families get the royal treatment with spacious accommodations, kid-friendly activities and family-friendly facilities. Both of these Oranjestad hotels offer opportunities for recreation, from a fitness center with

yoga and tennis to water activities such as kayaking, sailing, scuba diving and snorkeling. Guests can soak up the sun at the resort's private beach, the only one in Aruba, or splash around in one of several pools. Accommodations offer comforts including room service, high-speed Internet access, a 32-inch LCD TV and beds dressed with Frette luxury linens and pillow-top mattresses. Adult entertainment ranges from indulgent treatments at Okeanos Spa to the 24-hour Crystal Casino, while the Patamingo Kids Club offers a range of activities, from coloring to fish-feeding, for kids ages 5 to 12. Combined, the two hotels offer nine dining options including L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House, featuring an extensive wine list; Aruba's only Starbucks®; a fresh breakfast buffet at Captain's Corner and live entertainment and light fare at The Lounge, Midnight Grill. Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino is the perfect destination for a wedding, family reunion or corporate retreat, and offers 22,000 square feet of event space; its Crystal Ballroom can seat up to 1,600. □

**Beauty
On The
Beach**

**Virginia
Rasmijn**

She is married to a local and is staying at her family in law. This is her third visit and planning to stay in Aruba for a very long time.

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1st Burger King in Barbados opens with strong sales

MIAMI--(BUSINESS WIRE)-

- Burger King Corp. and Restaurant Associates Ltd., a BURGER KING® franchisee, announced today that the first BURGER KING® restaurant in Barbados has already introduced tens of thousands of Barbados fans to the world famous WHOPPER sandwich®. The BURGER KING® restaurant, which opened last month, is designed in the 20/20 light format, and has been welcomed into the country with open arms.

"We are thrilled that guests in Barbados have embraced the BURGER KING® brand and are enjoying our great-tasting, flame-grilled burgers," said Jose Tomas, president for Latin America/Caribbean Region (LAC), BKC. "This new market entry is part of our overall growth plan to increase our brand presence in the LAC region, and it is exciting to see the business

performing so well right off the bat. We look forward to a long and successful partnership in this market." Restaurant Associates Ltd. partner, Richard Lake said, "BURGER KING® is the market leader in QSR hamburger restaurants in the Caribbean and we are pleased to bring to Barbados the great quality in product and services BURGER KING® is known for worldwide."

As of early February, the restaurant has averaged an astounding 800 WHOPPER® Sandwiches sold per day. The BURGER KING® restaurant is located in Sky Mall, a fully solar powered mall. Under the expert management of Restaurant Associates Ltd., with a one-of-a-kind location within this fascinating space, and a drive thru window, the restaurant shows great prospects for the future.□

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Visit LG Smith Steak and Chop House and enjoy a different ambience combined with good food and Jazz music. If relaxation is what you are looking for come to LG Smith Steak and Chop House, select an exceptional wine from the extensive wine list and treat yourself to a unique night.

For reservations please call 523-6195 or e-mail zlindeborg@arubarenaisance.com. 'Like' our page on Facebook and stay up to date with LG Smith Steak and Chop House located on the second floor of the prestigious Renaissance Mall. LG Smith Steak and Chop House is open nightly for dinner from 5:30PM to 11PM and the Lounge Mignight Grill from 11PM to 6AM. Join us for your next dining experience or during your stay on the island. □

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Enjoy corporate travel at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad



PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad – February 28, 2013 – Hyatt Regency Trinidad, the Caribbean's premier international hub for corporate travel, invites planners to take advantage of the luxury hotel's accessibility from the world's major cities. From expansive meeting space and state-of-the-art equipment to an expert team of meeting professionals, Hyatt Regency Trinidad offers meeting planners a one-stop shopping experience for the next corporate gathering. Conveniently situated in Port of Spain's waterfront development adjacent to the island's main seaport, the 22-story hotel offers 43,000 square feet of flexible event space including two ballrooms, an executive boardroom, a private conference room and 12 meeting rooms. The Regency Ballroom Foyer boasts floor to ceiling windows overlooking the Gulf of Paria. Guests wishing to take advantage of the temperate weather (an annual average temperature of 79 degrees Fahrenheit) can enjoy cocktail receptions and other gatherings in the hotel's spacious meeting spaces or outdoor patios. In line with the ample event space, planners

will find high-speed wired and wireless Internet available in all meeting rooms, public areas and guestrooms. Translation facilities for international meetings, a full-service business center and trained, professional meeting and event planners are on staff and ready to assist at a moment's notice. While a central location, flexible event space and sophisticated technology are important aspects of any meeting, Hyatt Regency Trinidad enhances guests' experiences with delectable dining options

and chances to relax and unwind at both the infinity pool and Spa Esencia. The uniquely designed spa experience maintains the festive environment of Trinidad and infuses the theme of celebration with pampering treatments to prepare, indulge, detox and retreat the body, mind and spirit. The hotel also offers a 24-hour StayFit gym, offering guests the opportunity to stay healthy despite the day's busy schedule. Guests can also venture out to explore Trinidad and even take a day trip to en-

joy the beautiful beaches and eco attractions on sister island Tobago. Whether hosting a relaxed morning meeting or a formal evening event, the inventive catering team can present it all: themed pre-meeting breakfasts, from Caribbean and Continental to bountiful international buffets with omelet stations and bagel bars; "pick-me-up" breaks, offering everything from favorite childhood treats with local flavors to sliced fruit or health bars; and full deli buffets or lighter fare such as vegetarian wraps with

fresh berry tarts for lunch. Hyatt Regency Trinidad's culinary offerings also include an impressive range of hors d'oeuvres with a mix of hot and cold choices in a variety of ethnic themes for both lunch and dinner: classic buffets, featuring carving stations, seafood, cheese, local delicacies and more, as well as plated banquets or personal preference table side choices. For additional information regarding Hyatt Regency Trinidad, visit trinidad.hyatt.com or call 1-800-233-1234. □





Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry, center, shoots over New York Knicks' Raymond Felton, left, and Amare Stoudemire, right, during the second half of an NBA basketball game on Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013, in New York.

Associated Press

Knicks overcome Curry's 54 to beat Warriors

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Carmelo Anthony scored 35 points, J.R. Smith hit the tiebreaking shot with 1:10 left, and the New York Knicks overcame Stephen Curry's NBA season-high 54 points to beat the Golden State Warriors 109-105 on Wednesday night. Curry was 18 of 28 from the field, finishing one shy of the NBA record with 11 3-pointers. The Knicks finally stopped him with 1:28 to play when Raymond Felton blocked his shot with the score tied at 105. That led to a jumper by Smith, who finished with 26 points. Anthony followed with another basket and the Knicks hung on to spoil former Knicks star and Warriors coach Mark Jackson's homecoming.

Continued on Page 18

HAZARD PLAY



Woods gets wet, trails leader Villegas by six shots

Tiger woods reacts to a shot on the 16th hole during the first round of the Honda Classic golf tournament, Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press
Page 19

South Korea favorite in Taiwan WBC tournament

PETER ENAV

Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — With a lineup boasting power hitter Lee Seung-yeop, South Korea is seen as the Group B favorite this weekend in the opening round of the World Baseball Classic.

Host Taiwan is expected to compete with Andruw Jones and the Netherlands for second spot in the four-team group, which starts play Saturday at Taichung, while Australia appears to have little chance of advancing in the 16-team tournament. The top two nations move on to the second round in Tokyo.

While South Korea is without any major leaguers, Korean Baseball Organization slugger Lee Dae-ho could provide power along with Lee Dae-ho, who plays for Orix in Japan's Pacific League.

Kim Tae-kyun, Jung-Ho Kang and Kim Hyun-soo



Cincinnati Reds center fielder Shin-Soo Choo, of South Korea, fields a Cleveland Indians' Carlos Santana hit in the first inning of a spring training exhibition baseball game in Goodyear, Ariz., Friday, Feb. 22, 2013.

Associated Press

also are on the roster of South Korea, which advanced to the 2009 final before losing to Japan.

Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Ryu Hyun-jin and Cincinnati outfielder Choo Shin-soo are skipping the tournament to stay at spring training with their new clubs.

Some of Taiwan's hopes rely on Chien-Ming Wang, the former New York Yankees ace, who has struggled with injuries in recent years. Wang, a free agent after going 2-3 with a 6.68 ERA last year for the Washington Nationals, gave up three runs — two earned — and three hits in 4 2-3 innings Sunday during a tuneup game Sunday against a local team in southern Taiwan.

Taiwan will be looking to five-time local league batting champion Cheng-Ming Peng for offense and

19-year-old Tseng Jen-ho to provide pitching help.

Jones, who hit .197 with 14 homers last year for the New York Yankees, was born in Curacao and is on the Dutch team along with Boston Red Sox shortstop prospect Xander Bogaerts, who is from Aruba. They are joined by Baltimore Orioles third base prospect Jonathan Schoop, also from Curacao.

Texas shortstop Jurickson Profar, born in Curacao and Baseball America's top-rated prospect, skipped the tournament to remain at spring training with the Rangers.

Australia's team features two former major leaguers in left-hander Ryan Rowland-Smith and infielder Luke Hughes, but Oakland Athletics teammates Grant Balfour and Travis Blackley are sitting the tournament out. □

NBA Capsules

Continued from Page 17

It was the most points by an NBA player in a loss since Kobe Bryant had 58 in a loss to Charlotte on Dec. 29, 2006.

Curry finished with seven assists and six rebounds while passing his previous career best of 42 points, and Kevin Durant's 52-point performance that had been the best in the NBA this season. But he had little help without All-Star forward David Lee, who was suspended one game for his role in an altercation Tuesday night in Indiana.

Tyson Chandler had 16 points and a career-best 28 rebounds for the Knicks, who won their second straight after a season-high, four-game losing streak.

THUNDER 119, HORNETS 74 OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Russell Westbrook scored 29 points, Kevin Durant recorded his third career triple-double and the Oklahoma City Thunder finished a perfect three-game

homestand by routing the short-handed New Orleans Hornets.

Durant had 18 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists as Oklahoma City finished a dominant four-game sweep of the season series against New Orleans, which was without starters Anthony Davis (shoulder) and Eric Gordon (knee). The Thunder led by at least 29 in three of the four meetings this season, Ryan Anderson started in place of Davis and led New Orleans with 14 points. The margin of victory matched the largest of the season for Oklahoma City and was the biggest blowout the Hornets have suffered this season. It also marked the first back-to-back blowouts by at least 30 points by the Thunder franchise since 1994, when it was located in Seattle.

SUNS 105, SPURS 101

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Jermaine O'Neal had 22 points and 13 rebounds, Wesley Johnson hit a 3-pointer at the end of regulation to force overtime and the Phoenix Suns beat San Antonio to snap the



Sacramento Kings' Isaiah Thomas (22) directs teammates with Jason Thompson, right, against the Orlando Magic during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013, in Orlando, Fla.

Spurs' 18-game home winning streak.

Luis Scola added 15 points and Goran Dragic had 13 points and 13 assists

for Phoenix, which ended a six-game losing streak against San Antonio.

Tony Parker had 22 points to lead the Spurs, who had

not lost at home since Nov. 19 against the Los Angeles Clippers. San Antonio went 0 for 10 in overtime, its only points in the extra period coming when Parker made 1 of 2 free throws.

GRIZZLIES 90, MAVERICKS 84

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Zach Randolph scored 22 points and Marc Gasol added 21 as the Memphis Grizzlies matched their largest comeback in franchise history, rallying to beat the Dallas Mavericks. Quincy Pondexter finished with 12 and Austin Daye added 10, all in the first half, for Memphis, which trailed by 25 points in the second quarter but stormed back to win its eighth straight. Gasol had 12 rebounds and Randolph 10 as Memphis out-rebounded Dallas 46-34. The comeback matched a 25-point winning rally at Portland on March 25, 2002. Shawn Marion led the Mavericks with 16 points, Elton Brand finished with 12 off the bench, and O.J. Mayo added 11, despite going 5 of 13 from the field. □

Villegas takes lead with a late eagle at Honda

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida (AP) — Camilo Villegas

eagled the par-5 18th hole at PGA National for a 6-under 64 on Thursday that gave him a one-shot lead at the Honda Classic and another jolt of confidence as he tries to regain his status on the PGA Tour. South Africa's Branden Grace birdied the final four holes for a 65 to share second with Rickie Fowler, Graham DeLaet of Canada and Robert Streb.

Defending champion Rory McIlroy and Tiger Woods each opened with 70 and walked away feeling much differently about their day. Woods was in danger of a big number late in his round when he stepped into a creek to play a shot half-submerged in the water. Instead of taking a drop that could have led to double bogey, he escaped with par and rallied for a 70.

"I wasn't trying to advance it very far, just make sure I got it back in the fairway and give myself some kind of wedge shot in there, which I did," Woods said. McIlroy was 1 under for his day when his wedge from 105 yards sailed over the green, he chipped to just inside 8 feet and took bogey when he missed the putt. It felt even worse coming on the easiest hole at PGA National, which played about a half-shot below par.

"I only had 105 yards in for my third shot and ended up taking a 6," McIlroy said. "Wasn't the nicest way to finish. I saw enough pretty good golf out there to be positive going into the next few days."

Villegas will take just about anything positive at this stage in his career.

Just four years after his back-to-back wins in FedEx Cup playoff events and climbing to as high as No. 7 in the world, the 31-year-old Colombian went into a slump so bad that over the last 18 months he lost his card last year and didn't earn it back in Q-school. A popular draw, he has received ample sponsor exemptions to get through

the year and can build a full schedule. But he was middle-of-the-pack in the Humana Challenge, and then missed the cut at Torrey Pines and Pebble Beach.

"This game is great when you're playing good," Villegas said.

"When you're out here missing cuts and missing cuts.... it's not that much fun. The game was kicking my butt a little bit. I know I belong out here. I know how good I can be, and therefore, that's why you're just going to keep your head up and keep working."

It was his lowest round since a 63 to start the Humana Challenge a year ago.

Villegas won the Honda Classic in 2010 at PGA National, so he at least has that to build on. Despite the good start, he wasn't afraid to risk ruining the day on the last hole.

"My caddie said, 'Where are you going to go with the one,'" Villegas said. "And I said, 'I'm looking straight at that flag.' And I hit a great shot."

Grace, part of the core of young South Africans on the rise, played the Honda Classic for the first time, though he had heard plenty about the water and trouble on Nos. 15, 16 and 17 that was dubbed "Bear's Trap" in honor of course designer Jack Nicklaus.

"I sat down with Charl (Schwartzel) last week at the Match Play and he said, 'Listen, the four finishing holes are quite a beast out there.'

So I was a little nervous coming here," Grace said. "I just thought, 'What's going to happen around that corner?'"

The first one was easy after a tee shot into 2 feet on the par-3 15th. He holed birdie putts of about 18 feet on the next two holes, and then his 3-iron barely cleared the water in front of the green on the par-5 18th, leading to a simple up-and-down to finish in style.

Dustin Johnson, coming off two missed cuts and a first-round loss in the Match



Camilo Villegas, of Colombia, hits his tee shot on the third hole during the second round of the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Classic golf tournament in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., on Friday, Nov. 9, 2012. Associated Press

Play, sorted out his issues with the driver and opened at 66 to join a group that included Lee Westwood, Sean O'Hair, Boo Weekley and Ben Kohles.

Woods didn't hit it all that poorly, except for his tee shot on the par-4 sixth, with the tees moved forward 40 yards.

He drove it left and down

the bank into the water. Because of where it first crossed the hazard, he would have had no chance to get near the green after a penalty drop. Woods saw enough the ball to give it a shot.

He removed his shoes and socks as the gallery came to life. The ball shot out with a big splash, leaving

Woods about 80 yards to a front pin. He hit wedge to 8 feet and saved par.

"I was 1 over at the time, and if that ball is not playable from where it's at, where I crossed was pretty far back," Woods said. "Looking at 6 — 3 over — and all of a sudden I flip it, make par there and birdie the next." □

Munoz leads after first round at HSBC Champions



Azahara Munoz sped to the top of the leader-board on the first morning of the HSBC Women's Champions at The Sentosa GC and sat tight for the rest of the day. Associated Press

JUSTIN BERGMAN

Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Spain's Azahara Munoz shot a 7-under 65 to take a two-stroke lead after the first round of the HSBC Women's Champions on Thursday.

Munoz, playing in the first group of the day, made seven birdies in a blemish-free round to top the leaderboard boasting a

star-studded field at Sentosa Golf Club that includes 17 of the top 20 players in the world.

Five players were in a share of second place at 5-under 67 — Stacy Lewis, Karin Sjödin, Lizette Salas, Pornanong Phatlum and Sun Young Yoo. Paula Creamer was a stroke back at 4-under 68, despite struggling with a right shoulder injury sustained in a car

accident in Thailand on Sunday. Creamer was in a four-way tie for seventh with top-ranked Yani Tseng of Taiwan, Danielle Kang and Chella Choi.

Paula Creamer was a stroke back at 4-under 68 despite struggling with a right shoulder injury sustained in a five-car accident on the way to the airport after the Honda LPGA tournament in Thailand on Sunday. Creamer was in a four-way tie for seventh with top-ranked Yani Tseng, Danielle Kang and Chella Choi. The 25-year-old Munoz is coming off her strongest season on tour, winning her first title at the Sybase Match Play Championship and notching nine top-10 finishes.

The Spaniard said she plays well when she's first out on the course in the morning. "I don't know what it is but my best three rounds on tour have been first tee time," she said. □

Gagne scores in 1st game back with Flyers

NHL Capsules

The Associated Press PHILADELPHIA (AP)

Claude Giroux scored 23 seconds in, and Simon Gagne added a goal in his first game back with the Flyers as Philadelphia rolled to a 4-1 victory over the Washington Capitals on Wednesday night.

Wayne Simmonds gave Philadelphia a 2-0 lead less than four minutes later, and Gagne scored his first goal of the season in the second period, one day after being reacquired by the Flyers from the Los Angeles Kings.

Max Talbot stretched the advantage to 4-0 in the second, chasing goalie Braden Holtby to the bench just one day following his home shutout of Carolina.

Ilya Bryzgalov made 23 saves and was in line for a shutout until Joel Ward tipped in his own deflection with 2:09 left to cut the Capitals' deficit to 4-1.

Gagne hadn't scored since Nov. 17, 2011 — a span of 28 games.

Philipp Grubauer made his NHL debut in relief of Holt-



Montreal Canadiens right winger Brendan Gallagher (11) is driven into Toronto Maple Leafs goal-tender Ben Scrivens by left winger James van Riemsdyk (21) during the first period of an NHL hockey game in Toronto on Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013.

Associated Press

by, and blanked the Flyers the rest of the way.

CANADIENS 5, MAPLE LEAFS 2

TORONTO (AP) — Brendan Gallagher, Max Pacioretty and Brian Gionta scored third-period goals in Montreal's win over Toronto.

Gallagher scored his sixth of the season 9:08 into the third to break a 2-2 tie. Pacioretty cemented the win with his sixth goal — and second of the game — at 14:26. Gionta added an empty-net tally with 2:26 left.

Pacioretty also scored in the second period, and defenseman Alexei Emelin got Montreal on the board in the first period. Carey Price made 21 saves for his 11th win.

Frazer McLaren and Clarke MacArthur scored for To-

ronto (12-9), which had won three straight at home. This victory was payback for the Canadiens (13-4-3), who were routed by the Maple Leafs 6-0 in Montreal on Feb. 9. Since then, the Canadiens have gone 7-0-2.

Montreal outshot Toronto 40-23.

Maple Leafs goalie Ben Scrivens made his eighth straight start and kept his club in the game, finishing with 35 saves.

KINGS 2, RED WINGS 1

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Anze Kopitar scored the tie-breaking goal on a slick pass from Dwight King with 4:48 to play, and Los Angeles rallied from a third-period deficit against Detroit for its fifth straight victory.

Jonathan Bernier made 32 saves for the defending Stanley Cup champions, who tied it with 9:34 left on Jeff Carter's goal during a two-man advantage. King then made a spinning pass from the boards in front to Kopitar, who beat Jimmy Howard for his sixth goal of the season.

Howard stopped 27 shots for the Red Wings, who had won two straight after an 0-3-2 skid. □

Boxer Chavez Jr. suspended, fined for doping

MICHELLE RINDELS

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Mexican boxer Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. was suspended for nine months and fined \$900,000 by the Nevada State Athletic Commission on Thursday for a failed drug test last year.

The popular, 27-year-old fighter, who's the son of a famous boxer by the same name, tested positive for marijuana in September after his first professional loss. Chavez (46-1-1) was suspended from the date of the fight and was fined 30 percent of his \$3 million purse for the bout against Sergio Martinez.

Chavez, who spoke by phone from Mexico, said through a translator that he was sorry for his actions and had taken the drug to

curb his stress eight or nine days before the much-anticipated fight.

"I know I committed a big error. It was a mistake," Chavez told the five commissioners. "I let a lot of people down."

The commission could have banned him for one year and penalized him for up to 100 percent of his purse. However, his lawyer, Donald Campbell, asked for leniency, arguing that the marijuana wasn't a performance enhancing drug. He also said Chavez deserved credit for acknowledging that he used the drug.

"I'd like to fight as soon as I can," Chavez said. "But I'm willing to accept anything you guys have because, like I said, I made a mistake, and I'm willing to



In this Sept. 15, 2012, file photo, Julio Cesar Chavez Jr., left, lands a punch against Sergio Martinez during the 12th round of their WBC middleweight title fight in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

take the punishment." Chavez's failed test was revealed shortly after his dramatic loss to Martinez Sept. 15 in front of a sellout crowd of 19,000. Chavez already was fined \$20,000

and suspended indefinitely by the WBC, whose belt he lost to Martinez.

In 2009, Chavez tested positive for another banned substance after his fight with Troy Rowland in Las

Vegas. He received a seven-month suspension from the Nevada commission.

Chavez was arrested on drunken driving charges last year in Los Angeles, and struggled to make weight for a championship bout last February against Marco Antonio Rubio in San Antonio, Texas.

Commissioners were split on the punishment, voting 3-2 in favor of it. Commissioner Skip Avansino suggested a fine of 10 to 15 percent of the purse, saying Chavez appeared contrite about the violation. But others, including Commissioner Pat Lundvall, contended the punishment should be closer to the 30 to 40 percent figure other fighters have faced for second-time infractions. □

Djokovic, Federer reach Dubai Championships semis

MICHAEL CASEY
AP Sports Writer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic remained unbeaten this year by routing Andreas Seppi of Italy 6-0, 6-3 as the top four seeds powered into the semifinals of the Dubai Championships on Thursday. Defending champion Roger Federer brushed aside former world No. 3 Nikolay Davydenko 6-2, 6-2. Djokovic will play fourth-seeded Juan Martin del Potro, who repeated his semifinal effort of last year in dispatching German qualifier Daniel Brands 6-4, 6-2. Federer will face third-seeded Tomas Berdych, who beat Russian wild card Dmitry Tursunov for the second time in five days, 6-3, 6-2. The top-ranked Djokovic won his 11th straight match to start the year. He broke three times in the first set and once in the second that was a little more competitive. But a strong first serve in which he won 89 percent of points and a powerful forehand helped him improve his win-loss record against Seppi to 10-0. "It was an even better performance than the first two matches, so match after match I'm elevating the level, which is good," Djokovic said. "I'm trying to do my best on the court. Tomorrow I have a big challenge, the biggest so far. Hopefully I can sustain the level from today." Federer had also little

problem with Davydenko, breaking him twice in the first set. The second set was much the same, as Federer jumped out to 4-1 when Davydenko hit a backhand into the net. Federer had two aces and an overhead smash to make it 5-1 and closed it out with a love service game. The second-ranked Swiss has a 19-2 record against the Russian, whom he has not lost to in three years. "I was very happy. Good match for me. I served well from the start," said Federer, who won 84 percent of his first-serve points and had a first-serve percentage of 76 percent. "Then also I thought I had good timing on the return in particular after missing a lot of returns in the first match. I thought I was really striking it well, and then virtue of that I was getting the first strike in and then I was able to control the baseline more." Federer said he expected a much bigger challenge from Berdych, whom he last lost to at the U.S. Open but overall has beaten the Czech in 11 of their 16 matches. "He's got amazing power, one of the strongest guys out there on tour," Federer said. "I've struggled somewhat against him, but very often it's because his game is so big that, you know, he has a big say in the outcome of the match." Del Potro managed to neutralize the big-serving Brands, and said his right wrist, which he injured in

2010, was not bothering him as much as it did earlier in the tournament. "I served well today. I didn't (concede) any break points. I think I took all my chances to break his serve," Del Potro said. Del Potro said he was satisfied his wrist was holding up, adding he will need it to be OK to tackle Djokovic. "The good thing is I'm not getting worse. It's a good thing to be 100 percent," he said. "I know against Djokovic tomorrow I need to hit my backhand 100 percent and then see if I have a little chance to win." Berdych also served well against Tursunov, hitting nine aces and winning 81 percent of his first-service points. He also did well to move the Russian around the court, aware that Tursunov's sore left hamstring limited his mobility. "I know the situation. If you are in the position of playing one of the top guys and actually you don't feel well, you just have a small issue in your body, it's just a terrible match," Berdych said. "But at least you want to try. You never know what's going to happen. But once you are not really 100 percent ready, then it's tough." Tursunov, who lost to Berdych last weekend in the Marseille semifinals, said he was considering pulling out of the Indian Wells qualifiers next week due to the injury. □



Tomas Berdych of Czech Republic returns the ball to France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga during their final match at the Open 13 tennis tournament, in Marseille, southern France, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013. Associated Press

Williams reaches semis of Brazil Tennis Cup

FLORIANOPOLIS, Brazil (AP) — Venus Williams defeated fifth-seeded Magdalena Rybarikova of Slovakia 6-4, 6-0 on Thursday to reach the semifinals of the Brazil Tennis Cup. The top-seeded American broke Rybarikova's serve at 5-4 to win the first set and quickly took control of the second to clinch the victory in 1 hour, 25 minutes

at the hard court tournament in southern Brazil. Williams faced nine break points to the 52nd-ranked Rybarikova but was broken only twice. The 20th-ranked Williams is playing in her first tournament since losing to Maria Sharapova in the third round of the Australian Open in January. Williams will next face Olga

Puchkova of Russia, who cruised past Jana Cepelova of Slovakia 6-1, 6-1 despite eight double faults. The 109th-ranked Puchkova, who upset third-seeded Kirsten Flipkens of Belgium in the first round, will be trying to reach her first final since 2006. Earlier, seventh-seeded Kristina Mladenovic of France got past Melinda Czink of Hungary 6-4, 6-3 to set up the other semifinal against Monica Niculescu of Romania. □

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<p>BULLET TO THE HEAD</p> <p>Mon - Thurs 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20 Fri 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20 / 11:30 Sat 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20 / 11:30 Sun & Hol 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20</p>	<p>Sylvester Stallone Sung Kang</p> <p>BULLET TO THE HEAD</p> <p>Mon - Thurs 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20 Fri 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20 / 11:30 Sat 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20 / 11:30 Sun & Hol 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20</p>
<p>A GOOD DAY TO DIE HARD</p> <p>With Spanish Subtitles</p> <p>Mon - Thurs 4:00 / 5:10 / 6:10 / 7:20 / 8:25 / 9:35 Fri 4:00 / 5:10 / 6:10 / 7:20 / 8:25 / 9:35 / 10:40 / 11:50 Sat 1:50 / 3:00 / 4:00 / 5:10 / 6:10 / 7:20 / 8:25 / 9:35 / 10:40 / 11:50 Sun & Hol 1:50 / 3:00 / 4:00 / 5:10 / 6:10 / 7:20 / 8:25 / 9:35</p>	<p>Bruce Willis Jai Courtney</p> <p>A GOOD DAY TO DIE HARD</p> <p>With Spanish Subtitles</p> <p>Mon - Thurs 4:00 / 5:10 / 6:10 / 7:20 / 8:25 / 9:35 Fri 4:00 / 5:10 / 6:10 / 7:20 / 8:25 / 9:35 / 10:40 / 11:50 Sat 1:50 / 3:00 / 4:00 / 5:10 / 6:10 / 7:20 / 8:25 / 9:35 / 10:40 / 11:50 Sun & Hol 1:50 / 3:00 / 4:00 / 5:10 / 6:10 / 7:20 / 8:25 / 9:35</p>
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<p>Jason Bateman Melissa McCarthy</p> <p>IDENTITY THIEF</p> <p>Mon - Thurs 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20 Fri 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20 / 11:50 Sat 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20 / 11:50 Sun & Hol 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20</p>	<p>Arnold Schwarzenegger Johnny Knoxville</p> <p>THE LAST STAND</p> <p>Mon - Thurs 9:25 Fri 9:25 / 11:55 Sat 9:25 / 11:55 Sun & Hol 9:25</p>
<p>Jessica Chastain Nikolaj Coster-Waldau</p> <p>MAMA</p> <p>Mon - Thurs 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30 Fri 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30 / 11:55 Sat 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30 / 11:55 Sun & Hol 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30</p>	<p>Billy Cristal Bette Midler</p> <p>PARENTAL GUIDANCE</p> <p>With Spanish Subtitles</p> <p>Mon - Fri 4:25 / 6:55 Sat, Sun & Hol 2:00 / 4:25 / 6:55</p>

STARTING THURSDAY MARCH 7

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Huge study: 5 mental disorders share genetic links

LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The largest genetic study of mental illnesses to date finds five major disorders may not look much alike but they share some gene-based risks. The surprising discovery comes in the quest to unravel what causes psychiatric disorders and how to better diagnose and treat them. The disorders — autism, attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder or ADHD, bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder and schizophrenia — are considered distinct problems. But findings published online Wednesday suggest they're related in

some way.

"These disorders that we thought of as quite different may not have such sharp boundaries," said Dr. Jordan Smoller of Massachusetts General Hospital, one of the lead researchers for the international study appearing in *The Lancet*. That has implications for learning how to diagnose mental illnesses with the same precision that physical illnesses are diagnosed, said Dr. Bruce Cuthbert of the National Institute on Mental Health, which funded the research.

Consider: Just because someone has chest pain doesn't mean it's a heart attack; doctors have a

variety of tests to find out. But there's no blood test for schizophrenia or other mental illnesses. Instead, doctors rely on symptoms agreed upon by experts. Learning the genetic underpinnings of mental illnesses is part of one day knowing if someone's symptoms really are schizophrenia and not something a bit different.

"If we really want to diagnose and treat people effectively, we have to get to these more fine-grained understandings of what's actually going wrong biologically," Cuthbert explained.

Added Mass General's Smoller: "We are still in the

early stages of understanding what are the causes of mental illnesses, so these

countries, analyzed the genomes of more than 61,000 people, some with one



are clues."

The Psychiatric Genomics Consortium, a collaboration of researchers in 19

of the five disorders and some without. They found four regions of the genetic code where variation was linked to all five disorders.

Of particular interest are disruptions in two specific genes that regulate the flow of calcium in brain cells, key to how neurons signal each other. That suggests that this change in a basic brain function could be one early pathway that leaves someone vulnerable to developing these disorders, depending on what else goes wrong.

For patients and their families, the research offers no immediate benefit. These disorders are thought to be caused by a complex mix of numerous genes and other risk factors that range from exposures in the womb to the experiences of daily life.

"There may be many paths to each of these illnesses," Smoller cautioned.

But the study offers a lead in the hunt for psychiatric treatments, said NIMH's Cuthbert. Drugs that affect calcium channels in other parts of the body are used for such conditions as high blood pressure, and scientists could explore whether they'd be useful for psychiatric disorders as well.

The findings make sense, as there is some overlap in the symptoms of the different disorders, he said. People with schizophrenia can have some of the same social withdrawal that's so characteristic of autism, for example. Nor is it uncommon for people to be affected by more than one psychiatric disorder. □

Electronic cigarettes gaining awareness, use

MICHAEL FELBERBAUM

AP Tobacco Writer

RICHMOND, Virginia (AP)

— Increased awareness and use of electronic cigarettes in the U.S. outlined in a study released Thursday highlights the need for government regulation and evaluation, the head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's office on smoking and health said. Nearly six in 10 adults in the U.S. are aware of the battery-powered devices that heat a liquid nicotine solution and create vapor that users inhale, according to the first study to assess the change in awareness and use of electronic cigarettes on a national level. The CDC report published in the journal *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* also said about one in five current smokers reported having used an electronic cigarette.

"These findings sort of tantalizingly underscore the need for more rigorous study of patterns of use of e-cigarettes and impacts," Dr. Tim McAfee said in an interview with *The Associated Press*. "Until there's regulatory authority and oversight, it's going to be more difficult to be certainly reassuring around things like toxic effects."

Some of the largest U.S. tobacco companies have gotten into the e-cig market as part of the industry-

wide push to diversify beyond the traditional cigarette business. Reynolds American Inc., the second-biggest U.S. cigarette maker, has begun limited distribution of its first electronic cigarette under the Vuse brand. Lorillard Inc., the nation's third-biggest tobacco company, acquired e-cigarette maker Blu Ecigs in April. Some e-cigarettes are made to look like a cigarette with a tiny light on the tip that glows like the real thing.

The Food and Drug Administration says e-cigarettes have not been fully studied. The federal agency is expected to assert regulatory authority over e-cigarettes later this year to treat them the same as traditional cigarettes and other tobacco products.

The FDA has said its tests found that the liquid in some electronic cigarettes contained toxins besides nicotine as well as cancer-causing substances that occur naturally in tobacco. But some public health experts say the level of carcinogens was comparable to those found in nicotine replacement therapy, because the nicotine in all of the products is extracted from tobacco.

According to the results of a series of online surveys, the CDC reported that awareness of electronic cigarettes increased from

40 percent in 2010 to nearly 60 percent in 2011, and use among adults doubled to 6 percent during that time. The share of current smokers who said they have used an e-cig grew from 10 percent to about 21 percent, and from 2.5 percent to 7.4 percent for former smokers. McAfee said the motivations behind e-cigarette use remain unclear. For example,



a former smoker could be experimenting with them as a new nicotine delivery system, or could have used an electronic cigarette to quit smoking regular cigarettes. Current smokers might be using e-cigs in places where tobacco smoking isn't allowed. More than 45 million Americans smoke cigarettes, and about half of smokers try to quit each year.

First marketed overseas in

2002, e-cigarettes didn't become easily available in the U.S. until late 2006. Now, the industry has grown from the thousands of users in 2006 to several million worldwide. Analysts estimate sales could double to \$1 billion in 2013. Some companies have even started running TV commercials.

Devotees tout e-cigs as a way to break addiction

to real cigarettes. They insist the devices address both the nicotine addiction and the behavioral aspects of smoking — the holding of the cigarette, the puffing and exhaling something that looks like smoke — without the more than 4,000 chemicals found in cigarettes. "The bottom line is ... the impact of e-cigarettes on public health remains uncertain," McAfee said. □



This Feb. 8, 2012 photo shows a mural at Facebook headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif.

Associated Press

Facebook buying Atlas ad business from Microsoft

MENLO PARK, California (AP) — Facebook is buying a set of online advertising tools called Atlas from Microsoft in its latest attempt to build a more effective marketing system around its Internet social network.

In making the deal announced Thursday, Facebook is betting the acquired technology will bear more fruit under new ownership than it did during the past five-and-half years under Microsoft's control.

Atlas is part of an online advertising service called aQuantive that Microsoft Corp. bought for \$6.3 billion in 2007. AQuantive didn't bring in as much online ad revenue as Microsoft envisioned, prompting the software maker to absorb a \$6.2 billion charge last year that resulted in its first quarterly loss in its 26-year history as a public company. Facebook didn't disclose the purchase price. □

Toni Morrison talks to Google about creativity

HILLEL ITALIE
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Novelist Toni Morrison has visited Google's New York offices and shared her vision for how she would turn the search engine leader into a literary character.

Like a contraption out of a "Transformers" movie.

The 82-year-old Nobel laureate is the latest in a line of famous guests from Stephen Colbert to Lady Gaga who since 2005 have dropped in on Google Inc. in New York and its home offices in Mountain View, California.

Morrison sat Wednesday on a small stage under blue and white lights to speak to dozens of Google employees holding laptops and smartphones. She promoted the paperback edition of her novel "Home"



Author Toni Morrison speaks during an interview about her latest book "Home," during Google's online program series, Authors At Google, on Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013 in New York.

Associated Press

and chatted about technology, teaching and creativity. □

Smart 'stickers' let you find things by phone



A man holds the Stick-N-Find product at the Mobile World Congress, the world's largest mobile phone trade show, in Barcelona, Spain Wednesday Feb. 27, 2013.

Associated Press

PETER SVENSSON
AP Technology Writer
BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Jimmy Buchheim is behaving oddly.

On the floor of the world's largest cellphone trade show in Barcelona, Spain, he's looking at the screen of his iPod Touch, taking a few steps, and then looking again. Now and then he backtracks or turns, and looks again. Slowly, he confines his movements to a smaller and smaller area. Then he drops to his knees, and checks the screen again. He scrabbles forward.

"There we are!" he says. Buchheim has found his keys, which had been hidden behind a wastebasket by a skeptical reporter. On the key ring is a small disc, slightly bigger than a quarter. That's what Buchheim was homing in on, with his iPod. It allowed him to find his keys, hidden out of sight in an apartment-sized booth.

Buchheim's Davie, Fla.-based company, Stick-N-Find Technologies, wants to give people a way to find things, whether it's keys, wallets, TV remotes, or cat collars.

There's no real trick to

sending out a radio signal and having a phone pick it up. That's been done before. What makes the Stick-N-Find practical is a new radio technology known as Bluetooth Low Energy, which drastically reduces the battery power needed to send out a signal. That means the disc can be small, light enough for its sticky back to adhere to a lot of surfaces, and be powered by a watch-type battery that lasts up to two years without recharging. The signal can be picked as far as 300 feet away, but that's under ideal circumstances.

On the floor of the wireless show, with a multitude of Wi-Fi transmitters jamming the airwaves, the range was roughly 20 feet.

One downside to Bluetooth Low Energy: It doesn't come cheap. Stick-N-Find charges \$50 for two "stickers" from its first production run, which starts shipping next week. It gave early backers a better deal — 4 discs for \$65 — on crowdfunding site Indiegogo, where it had sought to raise \$70,000 from donors and ended up getting \$931,970 by the time the campaign ended last month.

Another downside is that few devices can pick up the signals. The latest two iPhones can do it, as can the latest iPod Touches and iPads. The latest high-end Samsung smartphones work, too.

Bluetooth Low Energy is expected to become a standard feature in phones, but it's not yet.

Whatever device you use, it won't tell you exactly where your sticker is located. All it can tell is how far away it is. That means finding something is a process of walking around and checking whether you're getting "hotter" or "colder." Of course, often you don't really need to know where your wallet is: knowing that it's within 8 feet and therefore somewhere in the car with you is assurance enough. Buchheim says the company has plans to add direction-finding features.

Users can also set up a virtual "leash" between a sticker and a Bluetooth device. Depending on the settings, when the two devices move a certain distance away from each other, the sticker starts beeping or the device's screen shows an alert. □

Struggling Groupon ousts CEO Andrew Mason

BARBARA ORTUTAY
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Struggling online deals pioneer Groupon has ousted its quirky founder and CEO Andrew Mason amid worries that people are tiring of the myriad of online restaurant, spa and Botox deals that Groupon built its business on.

Shares jumped following Thursday's announcement, which had been anticipated for months. Executive Chairman Eric Lefkofsky and Vice Chairman Ted Leonsis were appointed to the Office of the Chief Executive while a replacement is found.

"After four and a half intense and wonderful years as CEO of Groupon, I've decided that I'd like to spend more time with my family. Just kidding — I was fired today. If you're wondering why, you haven't been paying attention," Mason, 32, wrote in a memo to staff.

He referred to controversial metrics used in its regulatory filings ahead of Groupon Inc.'s November 2011 initial public offering of stock as well as "two quarters of missing our own expectations and a stock price

that's hovering around one quarter of our listing price." "The events of the last year and a half speak for them-

reported a bigger-than-expected loss and gave a weak revenue outlook for the current quarter.



Andrew Mason, the CEO of Groupon, poses for a photo in Chicago. The struggling online deals company said Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013, after the market closed that it ousted Mason as CEO and will look for a new chief.

(AP Photo/M. Spencer Greenm)

selves," he wrote. "As CEO, I am accountable."

The announcement came one day after Groupon

The guidance had fueled investor worry — which started even before Groupon's IPO — that people

are suffering from fatigue over the frequent emails flooding subscribers' inboxes. There were also worries that the company's efforts to broaden into an e-commerce powerhouse haven't been paying off. Groupon said Mason was not available for interviews. In a statement, Leonsis said, "Groupon will continue to invest in growth, and we are confident that with our deep management team and market-leading position, the company is well positioned for the future." Groupon Inc. makes money by taking a cut from the online deals it offers on a variety of goods and services. Investors have questioned whether that business model is sustainable and leads to growth over the long term — and whether the company can not only grow its customer base but make more from each subscriber. Groupon had the advantage of being first, but the model is easy to replicate. It has spawned many copycats after its 2008 launch, from startups such as LivingSocial to established companies such as Google Inc. and Amazon. □

US economy grew at 0.1% rate for Q4

M. CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy grew at a 0.1 percent annual rate from October through December, the weakest performance in nearly two years. But economists believe a steady housing rebound, stronger hiring and solid spending by consumers and businesses are pushing economic growth higher in the current quarter.

The Commerce Department's second estimate of fourth-quarter growth was only slightly better than its initial estimate that the economy shrank at a rate of 0.1 percent. And it was well below the 3.1 percent growth rate reported for the July-September quarter. The revision to the gross domestic product was due to higher exports and more business investment. GDP is the broadest measure of the economy's output.

Many economists say temporary factors that held back growth in the fourth quarter are probably fading and growth is likely picking up in the January-March quarter.

Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist at Capital Economics, predicts growth could be as high as 2 percent in the current quarter despite higher Social Security taxes, which have reduced take-home pay for most Americans. Alan Levinson, chief economist for T. Rowe Price, said growth could be as high as 2.5 percent.

Ashworth noted that a sharp decline in defense spending and slower business restocking subtracted 2.9 percentage points from growth in the fourth quarter. At the same time, consumer spending and business investment — two key drivers of growth — accelerated at the end of last year.

"We still believe that the fourth-quarter GDP figures were a lot better than the headline stagnation suggests," said Ashworth. □

CFO: Google to cling to cash for acquisitions

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Google plans to cling to its bulging stash of cash to pay for potential acquisitions and other technology investments that might boost future profits, a top executive said Thursday. Patrick Pichette, who oversees Google Inc.'s bank accounts as the company's chief financial officer, explained the company's rationale for hoarding \$48 billion in cash during a technology conference hosted by Morgan Stanley. "It serves the shareholder best to actually have that strategic ability to pounce" when there is the opportunity to make a major acquisition, Pichette said.

Although he didn't identify possible takeover candidates for the future, Pichette cited Google's

\$12.4 billion acquisition of cellphone maker Motorola Mobility last year as a prime example of why the company believes it needs to have lots of money at its disposal. Although Motorola has been a financial drag on the company so far, Google believes having it will ultimately will help it put its digital services on more smartphones and tablet computers.

The money-management policies of publicly traded companies are getting more attention as more firms hoard huge amounts of cash instead of introducing or increasing dividends to reward stockholders.

Apple Inc., the world's most valuable company and a Google rival, is currently under the most scrutiny because it holds \$137 billion in cash. One of Apple's shareholders, hedge

fund manager David Einhorn of Greenlight Capital, is pressing Apple to create a new class of dividend-paying stock that would supplement the quarterly dividend of \$2.65 per share that the company now pays. Apple CEO Tim Cook told shareholders Wednesday that the iPhone and iPad maker is in "very, very active discussions" about what to do with its money. Google has never paid a dividend since the company went public in 2004. It hasn't yet faced intense pressure to distribute its cash, partly because its stock has delivered a nice return for long-term investors. The stock is currently hovering around \$800, more than nine times its initial public offering price of \$85.

Much of the company's success has flowed from

the \$11 billion Google has paid to buy 237 companies besides Motorola Mobility since its IPO. Some of them have been small deals, such as the ones that brought in the technology for its Android software for mobile devices and the technology for its online maps. Bigger acquisitions such as the \$1.76 billion purchase of YouTube and the \$2.3 billion purchase of DoubleClick have made Google more successful in Internet video and online advertising.

Google primarily bought Motorola for its portfolio of more than 17,000 patents. Its cellphone business has been slumping. Instead of helping Google boost its profit, Motorola has accumulated operating losses of \$1.1 billion since the takeover was completed in May. □

Dow edges near record, then sputters; stocks down

CHRISTINA REXRODE

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It came so close.

The Dow Jones industrial average came within 15 points of its all-time high Thursday afternoon. But the momentum petered out, and the Dow and other indexes broke a two-day winning streak and closed lower. Economic data and company reports reflected an economy beating investors' low expectations, rather than one growing like gangbusters. Impending government budget cuts also cast a pall for some investors.

"There was no dramatic, great news," said Leon LaBrecque, CEO of LJPR in Troy, Michigan. "There's no remarkable economic information. Earnings are pretty much mixed."

The day started with the stock market plodding along before sending investors on a whipsaw day. After gaining a combined 291 points on Tuesday and Wednesday, the Dow spent Thursday morning darting between small gains and losses.

It took a decisive turn upward in the early afternoon. Around 2:30 p.m. (1930 GMT), it hit 14,149 — just 15 points from the Oct. 9, 2007 record of 14,164.53.

Then the rally sputtered and stocks turned lower in the final few minutes of trading.

The Dow ended down 20.88 points, or 0.2 percent, to 14,054.49. The Standard & Poor's 500 index slipped 1.31, or 0.09 percent, to 1,514.68. The Nasdaq composite index edged down 2.07, or 0.07 percent, to 3,160.19. Some said the market's fleeting gain Thursday was more about its general tendency to rise over time, and not necessarily a reflection of a surge in strength for the U.S. economy. "People have to separate the economy from the stock market," said Ed Butowsky, managing partner of Chapwood-Finance.com in Dallas.

Thursday's data didn't provide a clear picture on the economy.

Company earnings were mixed. J.C. Penney and Barnes & Noble posted losses. Wendy's and Domino's had higher profits. The U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of 0.1 percent in the last three months of 2012 — better than the original estimate of a 0.1 percent decline, but hardly robust. The number of Americans seeking unemployment aid fell, and the government prepared for federal spending cuts to kick in Friday, a result of Democrats and Republicans not compromising on the budget debate.

"We still have work to do, still a lot of headwinds to face," said Steve Sachs, head of capital markets at

ProShares in Bethesda, Md. But, he added, "we're in a better position now than we were three years ago." Thursday's close means the Dow rose 1.4 percent in February — respectable, but a slowdown from its 5.8 percent gain in January. The Dow milestone doesn't

would be important for psychological reasons: It can make people feel like the economy is doing better. That can induce them to spend and invest more. And it reminds people of a time before the financial crisis, which peaked in 2008.

—J.C. Penney fell 17 percent after the department store reported a higher-than-expected quarterly loss late Wednesday. The stock dropped \$3.59 to \$17.57.

— Wendy's, Domino's, clothing chain Chico's and energy drink maker Mon-



Specialist Peter Giacchi, right, calls out prices at the closing bell on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013. The stock market pushed higher Thursday afternoon, sending the Dow tantalizingly close to a record high before a slight final hour pullback. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

mean much in practical terms. It's an index of 30 big-name stocks, such as Disney and General Electric that investors follow as a gauge of how the overall stock market is doing. But professional investors don't change their strategy because of it.

Even so, a Dow record

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note held steady at about 1.90 percent.

Among stocks making big moves:

—Groupon, the coupons website, plunged 24 percent after reporting late Wednesday that its quarterly loss had expanded. The stock fell \$1.45 to \$4.53.

ster Beverage all rose after reporting higher profit and revenue.

—Barnes & Noble climbed 3 percent, up 51 cents to \$15.74. The bookstore chain posted a loss, though its CEO confirmed that the company was still in talks with its founder about a partial buyout. □

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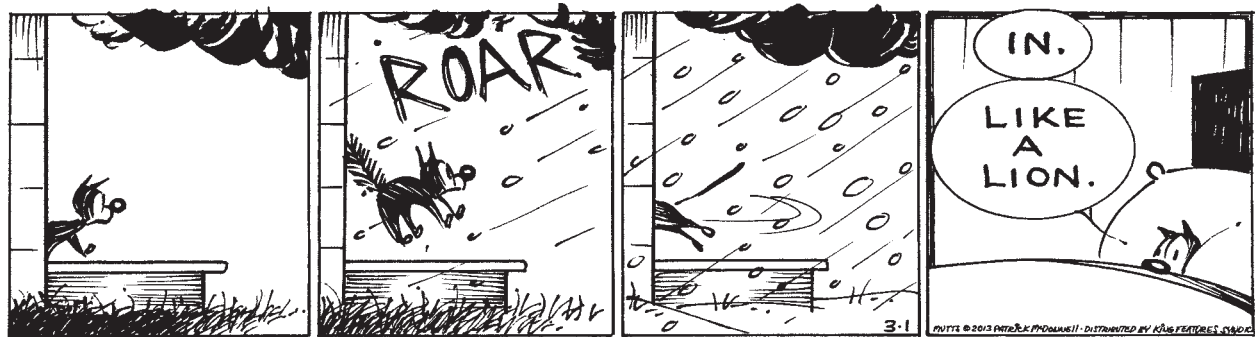
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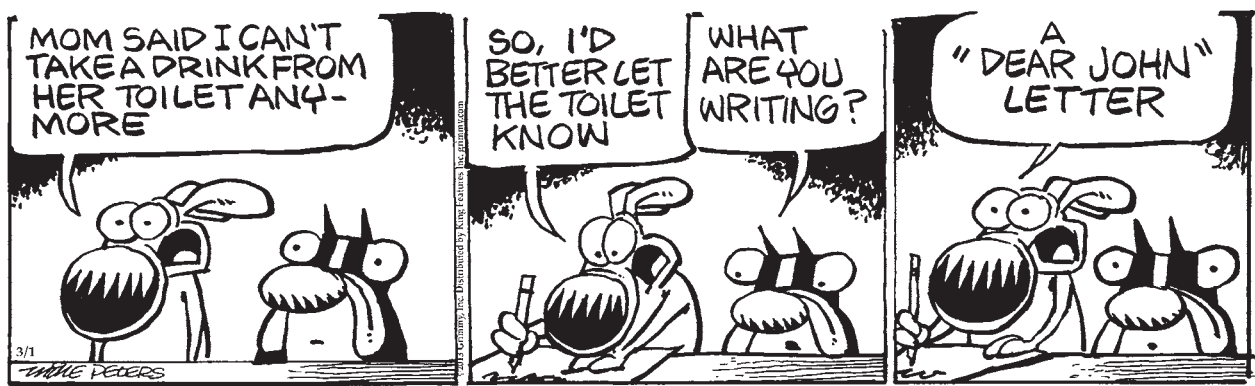
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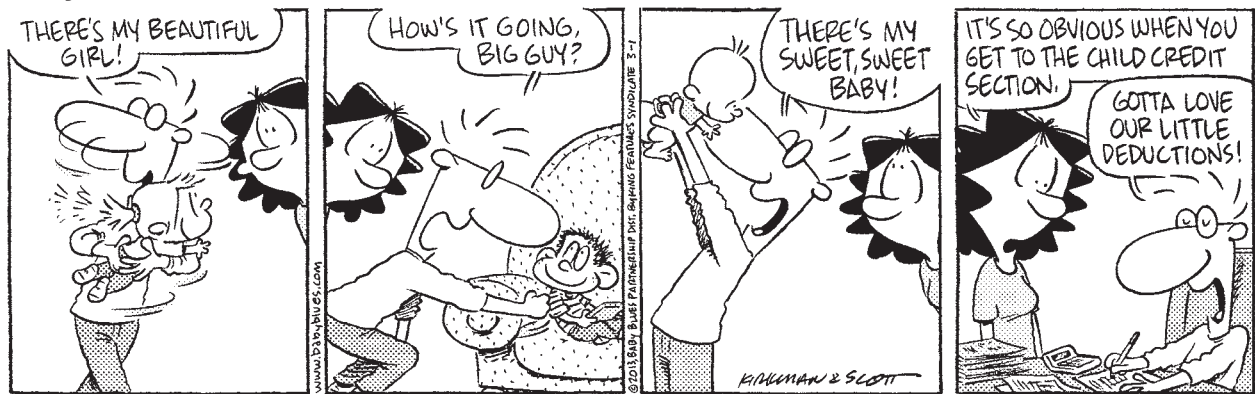
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

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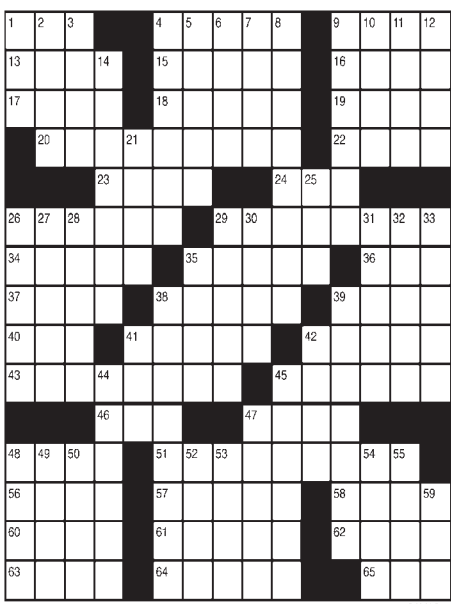
Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 3/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

3	4	1	9	5	7	2	8	6
8	7	5	2	6	1	4	9	3
6	2	9	8	3	4	1	7	5
1	6	3	4	8	2	7	5	9
5	9	4	7	1	3	8	6	2
7	8	2	6	9	5	3	4	1
4	1	6	3	7	9	5	2	8
2	5	8	1	4	6	9	3	7
9	3	7	5	2	8	6	1	4

- ACROSS
- 1 Split __ soup
 - 4 De Mille or Moorehead
 - 9 Bradbury and Charles
 - 13 Gung-ho
 - 15 Want badly
 - 16 "By the Time __ to Phoenix"
 - 17 Carnival attraction
 - 18 Lassos
 - 19 Actress Ward
 - 20 Last night's dinner reheated
 - 22 In a lazy way
 - 23 Misplace
 - 24 Actor McKellen
 - 26 School compositions
 - 29 Stretch; extend
 - 34 Mixed breeds
 - 35 __ as a bat
 - 36 Annoy
 - 37 Nude
 - 38 Speaks wildly
 - 39 Ernie's pal
 - 40 Christmas __; December 24
 - 41 Sink
 - 42 Upper body
 - 43 Totally changes a manuscript
 - 45 Shelf above a fireplace
 - 46 Japanese sash
 - 47 Peru's capital
 - 48 Tiny amount
 - 51 Members of the visiting team
 - 56 Counterfeit
 - 57 Unsuspecting
 - 58 Move quickly or suddenly
 - 60 Athletic shoe brand
 - 61 Change slightly
 - 62 China's continent
 - 63 __ the line; obeyed
 - 64 Goes first
 - 65 Crafty; wily



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 3/1/13

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

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- 33 Praise
- 35 Foundation
- 38 Making sense
- 39 Lorne Greene
- 41 Overalls part
- 42 Easy to handle
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- 52 Sickly looking
- 53 Pocket bread
- 54 Fling
- 55 Dirt
- 59 Spring month

Review: Molly's Theory of Relativity: The inner child is out to play



Lawrence Michael Levine and Sophia Takal during a scene in the film "Molly's Theory of Relativity," in an undated handout image.

(Adopt Films via The New York Times)

STEPHEN HOLDEN

© 2013 New York Times

"Molly's Theory of Relativity" is an intentionally uncomfortable movie to watch. The fifth feature from Jeff Lipsky, this eccentric, often high-pitched family comedy might be described as a surreal, post-Freudian gabfest. The main characters – a father, his son and his daughter-in-law – are volatile, complicated people alarmingly in touch with the part of the human psyche that therapists call the inner child. The setting is the Queens apartment of Zack and Molly Bluefield, a couple in their late 20s (Sophia Takal and Lawrence Michael

Levine, who are married in real life). Zack works two low-paying jobs, one at a Burger King, the other driving a courtesy van at LaGuardia Airport. Molly is an astrophysicist who has just been fired for a faux pas involving the mishandling of tickets to a fancy benefit. It is Halloween. Over the course of the day, parents, grandparents, children, relatives and neighbors – both living and dead – arrive at the Bluefield apartment. The couple's windows looking out over the East River are covered with corrugated cardboard. Scrawled on one wall is Zack's wish list of things to do. □

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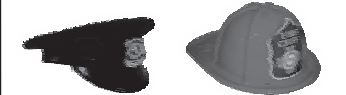
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Dust from Africa affects snowfall in California

ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — One of the driest spots on Earth — the Sahara desert — is increasingly responsible for snow and rain half a world away in the western U.S., a new study released Thursday found.

It's no secret that winds carrying dust, soot and even germs make trans-continental journeys through the upper atmosphere that can affect the weather thousands of miles (kilometers) away. Yet little is known about the impact of foreign pollutants on the West Coast, which relies on mountain snowmelt for its water needs.

Previous studies hinted these jet-setting particles may retard rainfall in the Sierra Nevada mountains in Northern California by reducing the size of water

droplets in clouds. But scientists who flew through storm clouds in an aircraft, measured rain and snow and analyzed satellite imagery found the opposite: Far-flung dust and germs can help stimulate precipitation.

During the 2011 winter, a team from the University of California, San Diego and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration traced particles suspended in clouds over the Sierra to distant origins — from the skies over the arid Sahara that later mingled with other pollutants in China and Mongolia before crossing the Pacific.

The days with the most particles in the clouds were also "days when we see the most snow on the ground," said study leader Kimberly Prather, an atmospheric chemistry professor



This 2011 image provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shows a field survey site in California's Sierra Nevada mountains.

Associated Press

at UC San Diego, whose study was published online Thursday in the journal Science.

Scientists believe wafting dust, grit and microbes — including bacteria and viruses — can spur the for-

mation of ice crystals in clouds that in turn can influence how much rain or snow falls. □



This Jan. 12, 2013 photo provided by NASA shows the Dragon spacecraft inside a processing hangar at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Associated Press

SpaceX on verge of 3rd supply run to space station

MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — The International Space Station is about to get another commercial shipment.

The California company known as SpaceX is set to launch its unmanned Falcon rocket on Friday morning, hoisting a Dragon capsule containing more than a ton of food, tools, computer hardware and science experiments.

There won't be any ice cream, though, for the six-man station crew. The freezers going up are filled with mouse stem cells, protein crystals and other re-

search items. On the previous Dragon delivery in October, chocolate-vanilla swirl was tucked inside. Forecasters put the odds of good weather at 80 percent. Launch time is 10:10 a.m. (1510 GMT).

This will be the third space station visit for SpaceX, or more formally Space Exploration Technologies Corp., the creation of Elon Musk of PayPal and Tesla electric car-maker fame. NASA is paying the company to supply the orbiting lab; the contract is worth \$1.6 billion for 12 delivery runs.

If launched Friday, the Dragon should arrive at the

space station on Saturday morning.

Astronauts will use the station's robot arm to grab the Dragon and attach it to the orbiting complex. A variety of plant life is going up, including 640 seeds of mouse-ear cress, a small flowering weed used in research.

Other experiments involve paint; high school students want to see how it will adhere and dry in space.

Russia, Europe and Japan also provide delivery services to the space station, but none of those cargo craft can return goods like the SpaceX Dragon.

This latest Dragon will spend more than three weeks at the space station before departing and parachuting into the Pacific with a full load of medical specimens, fish, plants and old equipment.

NASA's shuttles used to be the main haulers up and down, but retired two years ago. □

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Simon Cowell launches online talent contest

LONDON (AP) — Simon Cowell has taken over television screens and radio airwaves around the world. Now he's taking aim at the Internet.

Cowell's Syco Entertainment empire and YouTube announced Thursday that they are launching "The You Generation," a global online talent contest that is seeking entries from people with "unconventional and original talents" — from musicians and photographers to makeup artists, magicians and chefs.

Syco says the contest, which starts next month and is due to run for a year, will seek auditions in a different category of talent every two weeks. Entrants can upload their pieces on a dedicated YouTube channel, to be viewed by the public and judged by professionals associated with Syco.

There will be prizes — exactly what they are has yet to be announced — every fortnight and a grand prize at the end of the year.

Syco calls the initiative an experiment aimed at discovering new talent. It's the company's bid to tap the power of social media,



Simon Cowell arrives at the "American Idol" finale in this file photo dated Wednesday, May 26, 2010, in Los Angeles, USA. Associated Press

which has launched millions of wannabe celebrities — and some genuine stars, including Justin Bieber. You Generation will be available in 15 languages and 26 countries around the world.

Syco is a joint venture between Sony Music and Cowell, the entertainment mogul who became a household name as an acerbic judge on TV talent shows. Syco's projects include the "X Factor" and "Got Talent" TV shows in the U.S. and Britain, and its music acts range from Susan Boyle to One Direction. □

Steven Spielberg to head Cannes jury this year



In this Dec. 19, 2012 file photo, director Steven Spielberg speaks during a media availability before a screening of the movie "Lincoln," for members of Congress, on Capitol Hill, in Washington. Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France's Cannes Film Festival says it has finally snagged Steven Spielberg to serve as president of the award jury.

Gilles Jacob, the festival's president, recounted how he had been trying to get the award-winning director to head the jury for years — but the American was always working. Finally, this

year, Spielberg got in touch. "When this year I was told 'E.T., phone home,' I understood and immediately replied: 'At last!'" Jacob said in a statement posted on the festival's website Thursday.

Spielberg, who was nominated but didn't win the directing Oscar for his biopic "Lincoln" this week, takes the reins from Italian Nanni Moretti. The 66th Cannes festival takes place in the glamorous French Mediterranean resort from May 15 to 26.

Spielberg's presence will likely give more of an American flavor this year to the Cannes festival, a mélange of intellectual international cinema and Hollywood glamour. Jury presidents in the festival's seven-decade history have included such figures as Tennessee Williams, Ingrid Bergman, Roman Polanski and Francis Ford Coppola. Spielberg has had several films show at Cannes, and "E.T." had its world premiere there in 1982. His first film, "Sugarland Express," won best screenplay at Cannes in 1974. □

Cinderella's slipper: the ultimate must-have shoe

SAMANTHA CRITCHELL

AP Fashion Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — There would be no "happily ever after" for Cinderella without her glitzy glass slippers, so careful attention was paid to the shoes for the princess-to-be's Broadway opening this weekend.

For "Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella," which officially opens Sunday at the Broadway Theatre, costume designer William Ivey Long and footwear designer Stuart Weitzman created a pair of pumps so sparkly they "light up the upper balcony," Weitzman says. "The shoe is its own character in the show, and it will inspire the dream for so many other women."

Shoe shopaholics and Carrie Bradshaw types surely have been inspired by the Cinderella fashion fantasy, muses Weitzman, a 26-year industry veteran.



This image released by Stuart Weitzman shows a pair of glass slippers designed by Stuart Weitzman that will be worn by actress Laura Osnes in the title role of the Broadway musical, "Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella on Broadway."

Associated Press

How could they not? After all, he says, Cinderella gets the shoes — flattering, delicate and powerful all at once — and then gets her Prince Charming. When people describe the stunning bride or the prettiest red-carpet starlet, the comparison rarely — if ever — is made to Sleeping Beauty or Snow White. It's always Cinderella, belle of the ball. "Cinderella is the gold standard for aspiration," agrees Long. "The slippers are so iconic, and they are recognized worldwide." He says their only rival might be Dorothy's red ruby slippers in "The Wizard of Oz." Because the shoes are so famous, the designers had to work with a certain set of expectations: The shoes had to be romantic and sexy, have a sparkly fairy-dust touch — and they had to be seen by everyone in the theater.

Actress Laura Osnes, who plays Cinderella, couldn't risk shards and splinters from real glass, so the designers used Plexiglas instead. Weitzman employed a welded-construction technique that uses no screws, normally used in high heels, so Cinderella could have a seamless look. "This is the most magical world I've been asked to conjure up," says Long, whose 60-plus show credits include costumes for "Chicago," "Hairspray" and "The Boy From Oz." Instead of going all Disney or using the famous French illustrations that came a century before (Cinderella-style folk tales are hundreds of years older than that) as inspiration, Long decided to weave nature — with an emphasis on butterflies and vines — into his visual picture instead of a particular time or place. □



In this Aug. 20, 2008 file photo, author and biographer Robert Allan Caro smiles during an interview in New York. Caro's fourth Lyndon Johnson book, "The Passage of Power," won the National Book Critics Circle biography prize Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013. Associated Press

Caro wins National Book Critics Circle biography prize

HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Author Robert Caro is again the critics' choice.

Caro's fourth Lyndon Baines Johnson book, "The Passage of Power," won the National Book Critics Circle biography prize on Thursday night. The 77-year-old historian has won virtually every literary honor for his Johnson series, from the Pulitzer Prize to the National Book Award to three prizes from the critics circle, founded in 1974, around the time he started on the LBJ books.

Caro is working on the fifth, and presumably last, volume. "The Passage of Power" covers LBJ's vice presidential years and the early weeks of his presidency, after President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

The fiction winner was Ben Fountain's satirical debut novel about the Iraq war, "Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk," a finalist last fall for the National Book Award. The prize for general nonfiction was Andrew Solomon's best-seller about how families handle everything from hearing loss to mental illness to crime, "Far from the Tree: Parents, Children, and the Search for Identity."

Leanne Shapton's "Swimming Studies," an illustrated chronicle of her life as an artist and athlete, was the autobiography winner. Marina Warner's exploration of a storytelling classic, "Stranger Magic: Charmed States and the Arabian Nights," received the criticism prize. D.A. Powell's "Useless Landscape, or A Guide for Boys" was cited for poetry.

No cash prizes were given. Honorary awards were presented to reviewer William Deresiewicz and to Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar for their work in feminist criticism. □

Donald Trump returns to the 'Apprentice' boardroom



This Feb. 26, 2013 photo shows businessman and TV personality Donald Trump from "The Celebrity Apprentice," at his office at Trump Tower in New York.

Associated Press

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — There is something Donald Trump says he doesn't know.

Trump has welcomed a reporter to his 26th-floor corner office in Trump Tower to talk about "All-Star Celebrity Apprentice." And here in person, this one-of-a-kind TV star, billionaire businessman, ubiquitous brand mogul and media maestro strikes a softer pose than he has typically practiced in his decades on public display.

Relaxed behind a broad desk whose mirror sheen is mostly hidden by stacks of paper that suggest work is actually done there, Trump is pleasant, even chummy, with a my-time-is-your-time easiness greeting his guest. He even contradicts his status as a legendary know-it-all with this surprising admission: There's a corner of the universe he doesn't understand.

The ratings woes of NBC, which airs his show, are on Trump's mind at the moment, and as he hastens to voice confidence in the network's powers-that-be ("They will absolutely get it right"), he marvels at the mysteries of the entertainment world.

"If I buy a great piece of

real estate and do the right building, I'm really gonna have a success," he says. "It may be MORE successful or LESS successful, but you can sort of predict how it's gonna do. But show business is like trial and error! It's amazing!"

He loves to recall the iffy prospects for "The Apprentice" when it debuted in January 2004. With show biz, he declares, "You NEVER know what's gonna happen." Except, of course, when you do.

"I do have an instinct," he confides. "Oftentimes, I'll see shows go on and I'll say, 'That show will never make it,' and I'm always right. And I understand talent. Does anybody ask me? No. But if they did, I would be doing them a big service. I know what people want." So maybe he does know it all. In any case, lots of people wanted "The Apprentice."

In its first season, it averaged nearly 21 million viewers each week.

And it gave Trump a signature TV platform that clinched his image as corporate royalty. He presided in a mood-lit stagecraft boardroom where celebrity subjects addressed him as "Mr. Trump" and shrank at that dismissive flick of his

wrist and dreaded catchphrase, "You're fired."

The two-hour premiere of "All-Star Celebrity Apprentice" (Sunday at 9 p.m. EST) starts by rallying its 14 veteran contenders in the even more evocative setting of the 2,000-year-old Egyptian Temple of Dendur at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. There, grandly, Trump receives such returning players as Gary Busey, Stephen Baldwin, LaToya Jackson and reality mean queen Omarosa.

Soon, teammates are chosen by team leaders Bret Michaels and Trace Adkins. Their first assignment: concoct a winning recipe for meatballs, then sell more of them than the rival team.

This is the 13th edition of the "Apprentice" franchise, which has now slipped to less than one-third its original viewership, according to Nielsen Co. figures. But even an audience matching last season's 6.26 million viewers would be pleasant news for NBC, which has recently fallen to fifth place in prime time, behind even Spanish-language Univision. "I could probably do another show when I don't enjoy 'The Apprentice' anymore," says the 66-year-old Trump, mulling his TV future. □

Our Second Adolescence



DAVID BROOKS

© 2013 New York Times

In Friday's column, I wrote that the Obama administration has no plan to avoid the sequester save raising taxes on the rich. That was unfair. The White House approach is not what I would like, but it is more balanced than I described.

Humiliation is a good teacher. So, I've been trying to think through my dissatisfaction – and clarify what I think the administration should do.

First, I don't believe that President Barack Obama should become a Bill Clinton-style centrist. The Clinton policies were fine for their time. But, since then, we've had two decades in which inequality has gotten worse, the structural problems slowing growth have accumulated and debt levels have exploded. We simply need more robust policies than anything modeled in that era of centrism.

Second, I don't think it's in Obama's interest to be the liberal Reagan. This is more or less the mode he has fallen into so far in his second term. The Republicans attack government, so the Democrats defend government. The Republicans champion the individual, so the Democrats champion the collective. This allows Obama to stay within the confines of Democratic orthodoxy. He can make gestures toward balance but doesn't really crusade for anything that fundamentally challenges his electoral coalition.

The problem is that this approach locks us into the same debate framework we've been stuck in since 1980, which has produced so much gridlock. If politics is framed in this way, then the country divides and policy stagnates. We will keep having these endless budget squabbles. The dysfunction will metastasize. My main complaint with Obama is that he promised to move us beyond these stale debates, but he's, instead, become a participant in them.

My dream Obama would take advantage of the fact that only the president can fundamentally shift the terms. He'd take advantage of George Santayana's observation that Americans don't solve their problems; they leave them behind.

My dream Obama would abandon the big government versus small government argument. He'd point out that in a mature, aging society, government isn't going anywhere. The issue is not size but sclerosis. The future has

no lobby, so there are inexorable pressures favoring present consumption over future investment. The crucial point is not whether a dollar is spent publicly or privately, it's whether it is spent on the present or future. The task today is to reform institutions and rearrange spending so we look like a young nation and not a comfort-seeking, declining one.

My dream Obama would nurture investment in three ways. First, he would take spending that currently goes to the affluent elderly and redirect it to the young and the struggling. He would build on the means-testing Medicare idea that Yuval Levin described recently in *The Times*. Older people with higher lifetime earnings would have fewer benefits, and they wouldn't kick in until age 70. That money could be used to reduce our children's debt burden and to fund early education, community colleges, research and infrastructure projects. Obama thinks the Democratic base would reject this shift. I'm not so sure. Democratic interest groups generally care more about discretionary spending than entitlement spending for the affluent. Moreover, I think Republicans could be persuaded that it's crazy to harp on discretionary spending, which is a deficit sideshow. They should focus their energies on entitlements. Second, Obama could nurture investment by starting a debate on the sort of consumption tax plan Michael Graetz describes in his book "100 Million Unnecessary Returns": Enact a value-added tax, use money from that tax to finance an income tax exemption of \$100,000, cut the corporate tax rate to 15 percent, replace the earned-income tax credit with payroll tax relief and debit cards.

This is a heavy lift politically, but it achieves Obama's fairness goals while boosting growth.

Third, Obama could talk obsessively about family structure and social repair. Every week we get another statistic showing how social and income inequality is dividing the nation. A team led by Robert Putnam of Harvard recently completed research showing that while childhood obesity is falling among kids whose parents graduated from college, it is still rising among kids whose parents have a high school degree or less.

Because of his upbringing, Obama is uniquely qualified to talk about family structures. Traditional values are an investment in the young, and he could do what he can to restitch the social fabric. If we don't address this problem, inequality will be worse 30 years from now no matter what else we do.

My dream Obama wouldn't be just one gladiator in the zero-sum budget wars. He'd transform the sequester fight by changing the categories that undergird it. He'd possess the primary ingredient of political greatness: imagination. The great presidents, like Teddy Roosevelt, see situations differently. They ask different questions. History pivots around their terms. □



Rebuilding On Their Own



JOE NOCERA

© 2013 New York Times

NEW ORLEANS – "Cities change from the bottom up, block by block," said Roberta Gratz, as we drove down Magazine Street, on our way to the Lower Ninth Ward here.

The author of "The Battle for Gotham: New York in the Shadow of Robert Moses and Jane Jacobs," Gratz, like her friend and mentor Jacobs, is a student of what she calls "urban regeneration." Since 2007, she has owned a home in New Orleans, and she was giving me what amounted to a tutorial on her next book subject: the rebuilding of the city post-Katrina. "Look at this," she said, gesturing to storefronts. "This is one of the longest shopping streets in the country. There are residential and commercial buildings, and local stores and chain stores. Very little was done for streets like this because the big money went to the tourism districts," she said.

"This grew back organically." Which, she believes, is the way it always happens.

I was already coming around to that point of view. Some months earlier, when I had gone to Rockaways, the stretch of New York coastal towns that had been pummeled by Hurricane Sandy, I had been struck by the lack of

government response. Personnel from the Federal Emergency Management Agency set up offices, where they sipped coffee while waiting for Sandy victims to drop by. The city's Sanitation Department did heroic work, but other city agencies were largely invisible. (City officials later complained that they had done much more than I had acknowledged.)

Mostly, people helped other people. Churches donated space where victims could get staples. Nonprofit organizations were everywhere. Volunteers went from house to house, helping homeowners clear out debris. I remember wondering at the time if it was always going to be like this. Despite the billions of dollars appropriated by Congress for Sandy recovery, would the rebuilding be as ad hoc, and as volunteer-dependent, as the initial emergency phase? If New Orleans is any indication, the answer is yes.

It is not as if New Orleans didn't have a grand plan. Its plan was put together by many of the city's machers, which concluded that the Lower Ninth, the poorest district in the city, which had been virtually wiped out by Katrina, should never be rebuilt. The plan called for turning a neighborhood that once had 14,000 residents into "green space." The plan died a quick, deserved death.

And then?

"I remember going to visit a house in the Lower Ninth four months after Katrina with the owner, who was seeing it for the first time," said Gratz. "It was as bad as anything you'd ever seen. He looked at it and said, 'It was in bad shape when I got it. I fixed it once, and I'll fix it again.'" Gratz told me this story in a sweet little restaurant called Cafe Dauphine in the Lower Ninth. It had been open for nine months. The woman who owned it lived across the street. Business was good, said the maitre d'. Many

of the houses on the surrounding street had been rebuilt, but there were still many that had not been touched since Katrina.

That is what you saw all over the Lower Ninth. People had trickled back – not everyone because not everyone could afford to come back, but more than you'd think. Volunteer groups were helping to rebuild homes. Neighbors were helping neighbors. Most strikingly, Brad Pitt's rebuilding organization, Make It Right, has spent \$24 million to build around 90 colorful, environmentally friendly homes in the Lower Ninth – with plans to build about 60 more. There are many people in New Orleans, Gratz included, who believe Pitt is one of the true heroes of the rebuilding effort.

The city government no longer ignores the rebuilding in the Lower Ninth. It has small but meaningful programs to help smooth the path for people who want to move there. Then again, it has idiotically planted palm trees along one of the Lower Ninth's major streets, an inexplicable choice in a city known for its great live oaks.

Back in the Rockaways, the "ground up" rebuilding has already begun. Habitat for Humanity has arrived in force. In 2005, firefighters from New York went to New Orleans to help out after Katrina; now, firefighters from New Orleans are returning the favor. A group called Friends of Rockaway, using grant money from the Robin Hood Foundation, the primary philanthropy of the hedge fund industry, is employing local people to rebuild homes in their neighborhoods.

And government? New York City started a program called Rapid Repairs. People would order a boiler from the program, and then wait for weeks for it to arrive. And half the time, it was the wrong boiler and had to be returned. It only reinforced what people in the Rockaways were coming to understand. They're on their own. □

Will the real 'Harlem Shake' please stand up?

KIA GREGORY

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NEW YORK — Search YouTube for the "Harlem Shake" and, within the some 200,000 results, a group of sky divers thrust their pelvises and pump their fists in a wild dance move while falling amid the clouds; members of the University of Georgia men's swim-and-dive team do similar moves in their trunks underwater; and Norwegian army officers stand stoically in camouflage and berets before breaking into their version of the

own in response, the four-man dance crew many credit as having pioneered and popularized the dance see another shot at stardom, the kind that burns brighter and longer than a 30-second parody.

"I'm not a hater," said Maurice "Motion" Strayhorne, one of the original Harlem Shakers as part of the Crazy Boyz dance crew. "But it's bitter in the sense of, it's like they're disrespecting the whole style of dancing."

He and his friends honed the dance in the late '90s at the Skate Key roller skat-

larity fade. "It's also sweet," Strayhorne, 30, said of the buzz around the knock-off version, "because the name is bringing the Harlem Shake back up."

"They made us relevant again," said another crew member, Joseph "No Bones" Collins, 32.

The crew is rounded out by Jesse "Smile" Rutland and Kirkland "Dirty Kirt" Young. Two of the members grew up in Harlem, but they don't remember how the dance got its name. "I called it the Funky Dance," Strayhorne said. Still, there is

sar, 49, who works in Manhattan as a secretary. "Harlemites put their own little twist on it. So their dancing is an art. For people to make a mockery of it, what are you saying to us? Don't offend us with that nonsense you're calling the Harlem Shake."

But Michael Minott, a former DJ based in New York, sees the Harlem Shake parodies, similar to the recent wave of "Gangnam Style" and "Call Me Maybe" videos, as harmless. "It gives people their 30 seconds of fame," Minott said. "The

one in the same. "It's just how you're feeling at the moment," said Rutland. "Whatever move you do, you just do it, but you make sure you stay consistent with the beat."

When The Breakfast Club, a radio show on Power 105.1, wanted a video for its website that would be a history lesson on the real Harlem Shake, they called Rutland. He brought about seven teenagers from the after-school dance program where he and crew members teach. Some of the students are in dance crews of their own.

The result is a video that begins with a parody, with one dancer in a Viking hat doing the new Harlem Shake. The caption next to him reads, "This Ain't Harlem." Then for about four minutes the dancers — arms and legs moving sometimes in a blur of attitude and style — do the original dance. "This," the caption declares, "Is Harlem." The Breakfast Club posted the video on its website on Monday, and it is now on YouTube with about 320,000 views and counting. Since then, Crazy Boyz crew members say their phones have been ringing off the hook. There have been promises of television appearances for them to showcase the real Harlem Shake. They eventually hope to display the other parts of their "Go Crazy" style, with signature dances like the Old Lady and the Wiggle, and to maybe one day have their own reality show centered on the dance crews in New York that create moves of expression and identity.

"We look at it as a movement," said Rutland, 32, who grew up in Harlem and now lives in Brooklyn with his wife and 2-year-old son. "What we would love to see is our style being honored. We want 'Go Crazy' to go big."

Strayhorne put the renewed attention into simpler terms. "A lot of people that didn't help me like a month ago with nothing are coming to me, like, 'You still dancing?'" he said. "That's how funny life is." □



A dancer does what is known as the original "Harlem Shake" at a teenage dance night at the Union Settlement Association Community Center in the Harlem neighborhood of New York, Feb. 26, 2013. The real Harlem Shake, a much more raw, frenetic dance than the versions seen in thousands of YouTube videos, was born in New York City about 14 years ago.

(Brian Harkin/The New York Times)

dance, all set to an electronic groove.

There is a Harlem Shake puppy edition, a grandma edition and a stripper edition, inspired by a song from the trap producer Baauer that is currently in its second week atop the Billboard Hot 100 — thanks largely to this deluge of videos. The thing is, this worldwide dance contagion is not the Harlem Shake.

The real Harlem Shake, a much more raw, technical, fluid, frenetic dance, was born in New York City about 14 years ago. But while some in Harlem have taken offense at the rebranding and posted videos of their

ing rink in the Bronx, where they hung out and flirted with girls, and during basketball games at Rucker Park in Harlem. There, they watched a man known as Al B. entertain the crowd at halftime with his popular dance, described by the crew as a sort-of skip-hop followed by a chop down. The Crazy Boyz said they combined their "shake," their spastic arm and chest movements, with his style to spark what they said became the original Harlem Shake. The crew eventually took the dance to the hip-hop world in music videos for artists like Eve and Diddy, only to watch its popu-

larity fade. "It's also sweet," Strayhorne, 30, said of the buzz around the knock-off version, "because the name is bringing the Harlem Shake back up."

"They made us relevant again," said another crew member, Joseph "No Bones" Collins, 32. The crew is rounded out by Jesse "Smile" Rutland and Kirkland "Dirty Kirt" Young. Two of the members grew up in Harlem, but they don't remember how the dance got its name. "I called it the Funky Dance," Strayhorne said. Still, there is

question is, is it the Harlem Shake? It's not the Harlem Shake. The Harlem Shake is a dance that has been around for a long time and will always be around." If anything, he said, the controversy provides "an opportunity for dancers to bring the original dance back."

For the Crazy Boyz, who also work in construction, the constant stream of Harlem Shake videos and the related media coverage have stoked interest in them and the original dance.

They said their style was simply a way to express freedom, which in that way makes the two dances

obvious pride in the dance in a neighborhood both struggling and thriving, and known the world over for its magical brand of culture and style. In a YouTube video titled "Harlem Reacts to 'Harlem Shake' Videos," some residents laugh at the controversy. But others see red, especially at videos in which people don costumes and simply parade around. That interview footage so far has more than 7 million views.

Elaine Caesar, who grew up in Harlem and now lives in the Bronx, shares the heated sentiments of some in the video. "We take our dance seriously," said Caesar, 49, who works in Manhattan as a secretary. "Harlemites put their own little twist on it. So their dancing is an art. For people to make a mockery of it, what are you saying to us? Don't offend us with that nonsense you're calling the Harlem Shake."